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Rudolph the reindeer is having a glittering antler makeover. **> PAGE 23**

LIFE & STYLE



Could "The Wolf" mark the end of Leonardo DiCaprio's Oscar drought? **> PAGE 24**

New Saipan casino bill—again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» **Senate faces challenges in reconsidering 'filed' casino bill**

With the Senate facing legal challenges in trying to reconsider a Saipan casino bill that it shelved three months ago, House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) prefiling late afternoon yesterday an entirely new measure legalizing casino operations on the island. This is the fourth legislation of its kind to be introduced in four years, each of them rejected by the Senate in one form or another. **See CASINO on Page 4**

SHEFA rules bar aid to trades students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Students of Northern Marianas Trade Institute are technically ineligible for financial assistance from the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance due to its enabling rules that exclude grants for trade and vocational schools.

John Pialur, chairman of the board committee on programs and development, revealed that the way the SHEFA

regulations are written, providing assistance to trade schools and vocational students is beyond the board's authority.

The only way to go around this is to rewrite the policy and regulations, Pialur said, or establish specific rules and regulation dealing with trade and vocational scholars.

"I understand the need for these individuals to have financial assistance [from SHEFA] but first things first. The way our regulation is written now

See SHEFA on Page 4



MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

Gus Kaipat and employees at the Legislature lead a song in honor of former Saipan mayor Jesus "Gere" Sablan Deleon Guerrero during yesterday's CNMI leadership memorial tribute held at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill. Deleon Guerrero passed away on Valentine's Day at the age of 82.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Lawmakers urge Fitial's extradition

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) is prefiling next week a joint resolution, to be co-authored by other members, urging Gov. Eloy S. Inos to "begin the process" of extraditing for-

mer governor Benigno R. Fitial to face the criminal charges against him. Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider said yesterday he shares the community's sentiment of putting closure on the matter but declined to comment further.

» **To put closure, move CNMI on to another chapter**

Dela Cruz disclosed the plan to craft a joint resolution on the one-year anniversary of Fitial's resignation on Feb. 20, 2013, just days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate for corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

"I know this is going to be a tedious process, since the Philippines is a foreign country, but at the same time, it has been done before," Dela Cruz said, referring to attorney Joey Arriola, who was extradited also from the Philippines.

Fitial is believed to be in the Philippines, his wife's home country.

Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan) separately said yesterday that "it's about

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The Choice is Clear

CNMI leaders celebrate legacy of former Saipan mayor 'Gere'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

"A dedicated public servant," "a visionary," "a devoted family man," "a mentor," "a friend," and "a source of inspiration" were among the words that acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider and other elected leaders used to pay tribute yesterday to former Saipan mayor Jesus Sablan Deleon Guerrero. "Gere," as the former mayor was fondly called, passed away at the age of 82 on Valentine's Day due to pancreatic cancer.

"It's a very beautiful ceremony. We are very appreciative of this. I'm sure I speak on behalf of my family," Rose Marie A. Deleon Guerrero, the youngest of the late mayor's 10 children, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Beside her were her siblings consoling their mother, Victoria Alepuyo Deleon Guerrero.

The CNMI leadership, led by Hofschneider, Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and members of the Legislature, held a well-attended memorial tribute for "Gere" at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

"On behalf of Governor Inos and the Executive Branch, we come to honor the legacy of a great man who devoted his life to serving the community. Jesus Sablan Deleon Guerrero was a congressman and a two-time mayor. His devotion to public service was selfless and untiring," Hofschneider told the crowd.

Hofschneider recalled a remark by a former U.S. Postal Service official that "if it wasn't for Mayor Gere, we would not have the post office in Chalan Kanoa."

"In addition to ensuring we can communicate with the rest of the world [through postal service], Mayor Gere worked

tirelessly to lay the groundwork for the street naming projects on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," the acting governor added.

Hofschneider also recalled that some five months back, he was able to talk to the former mayor at the latter's house about issues facing the CNMI.

"I was pleasantly surprised with his understanding of the challenges that our government and community faces today. However, he impressed upon me that no matter how hard or complex these challenges are, with hard work and dedication, we can overcome and make a difference," he said.

Torres echoed Hofschneider's words of praise for the late mayor. "He's the type of person that even if you haven't seen in a long time, you can always feel his love, his joy, charisma. I enjoyed his genuine personality and I thank him and his family for their service to the community."

The House speaker, for his part, said "Gere" was not only a family but a mentor to him.

"He strongly believed in dedicating himself for the public, for working selflessly. As a congressman and mayor, he's always helping people. He's a true public servant," the speaker said.

"Gere" was a member of the First Legislature, from Jan. 9, 1978 to Jan. 14, 1980. He also served twice as mayor of Saipan from January 1990 to 1998.

At the memorial tribute yesterday, Gus Kaipat led the singing of songs dedicated to the former mayor. The House, Senate and Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores also each presented plaques of recognition and legislative resolutions to "Gere's" wife, Victoria, and the family.

"Gere's" funeral service will be on Saturday morning, Feb. 22, at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Following the Mass of Christian burial at 11am is the interment service at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

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Accountant testifies about Quichocho's alleged looting

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

An accountant testifying for businesswoman Jung Ka Kim described yesterday as "looting" what attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances, did to the companies owned by Kim, resulting in \$2.3 million in losses.

Certified public accountant Bruce M. MacMillan, who is also an accredited investment fiduciary, took the witness stand yesterday in the ongoing jury trial in federal court of the Quichocho couple, Quichocho's law firm, and the couple's Karissa LLC company.

Kim retained MacMillan as an expert witness to investigate Quichocho's actions in relation to the legal services he provided to Kim in her poker machine businesses, Tan Dingo LLC and Latte Stone LLC.

According to MacMillan's report, Tan Dingo LLC sustained \$667,042 in losses; Latte Stone LLC, \$1,551,828; and Soi-In Corp.-Rent & Property,

\$45,227. This brings the total loss of the three companies to \$2,264,097.

MacMillan said that due to Quichocho's failure to allow Kim full ownership of Tan Dingo, 16 poker machines have been stored in a warehouse, resulting in \$318,380 loss of income, \$318,662 in loss of business value, and \$30,000 in loss of property value, for a total loss of \$667,042.

As for Latte Stone LLC, which owns 20 poker machines, MacMillan said that Quichocho took complete control of the company. This caused Kim loss of property value in the amount of \$68,675, loss of \$854,092 in income, and loss of \$629,061 in business value, for a total loss of \$1,551,828, he said.

Additionally, MacMillan said, Kim's Soi In Corp. suffered \$45,227 in losses due to the Quichocho's alleged unpaid rent of various apartment units and loss of the furniture and equipment that were in the premises.

Responding to a question by Kim's counsel, Colin M. Thompson, why he described the Quichocho's acts as looting, MacMillan said that when the Quichocho took control of the two poker companies, there were excessive amounts of withdrawals. MacMillan said that looting seems to be the primary motive as poker machine license renewals were done to a lesser degree.

He noted that paying the salary of Quichocho's live-in

housemaid out of Kim's company constitutes fraud because it's essentially evading taxes.

MacMillan said the failure to renew the license of four poker machines means that the four machines operated illegally for a period of time. He said he determined that the machines were operating illegally by just reading the meters.

MacMillan said that when Kim was in control of Latte Stone, the company was making consistent profit for several

years. The Quichocho's subsequently drained the company by withdrawing excessive amounts of resources (\$250,953), he said in his report.

"By having nothing invested or at risk, it was easy and beneficial for them to loot the company for as long as they could. Trying to maintain the operation as a 'going concern' does not appear to have been their objective," he stated.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday late

afternoon, attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for the Quichocho's, was readying to question MacMillan.

Kim completed her testimony yesterday.

» **'Looting' resulted in Kim's losses amounting to \$2.3M**

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Middle school reconfiguration becomes effective this Sept.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

More schoolchildren are expected to join the Public School System in September when the school year opens as a result of the reconfiguration of middle schools that will pave the way for the expansion of the kindergarten program.

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he is convinced that more classrooms would become available next school year to accommodate more kindergarteners.

The kindergarten program, which accommodates 5-year-old children, is not required by law. However, the education board implemented it so it could serve a greater number of children in the Commonwealth. The program is currently offered in half-day sessions in schools due to the lack of teachers and facilities.

Effective this fall, six elementary schools will be merged to become middle schools. San Vicente Elementary School will start accommodating students from kindergarten to fifth grade and would transform the Dandan Elementary School into a middle school. The same plan has been approved for Koblerville Elementary School, which will soon be home to kindergartners to fifth graders. This will lead to the transformation of San Antonio Elementary School into another middle school for sixth to eighth graders.

The merger of Tanapag and

Gregorio T. Camacho elementary schools will pave the way for the creation of the Tanapag school as a middle school, while GTC would have kindergarten to fifth grade.

Guerrero said it's been years since the BOE approved the implementation of a full-day kindergarten program. However, as a result of the lack of classrooms and teachers, only a few campuses have managed to enforce the full-day classes.

"The shortage of classrooms for the expansion of the kindergarten program has been our main issue since the beginning. With the middle school concept (effective school year 2014-2015), we're expecting some classrooms to be made available for more kindergarten students next school year," he said.

At present, only six of 12 elementary campuses enforce whole-day kindergarten sessions.

Each year, PSS sees a growth in the volume of children on the program's waitlist. By having full-day sessions in all elementary schools, each campus may accommodate up to over 100 kindergarteners every school year.

"At PSS, financial is always a challenge. So we need to be creative to make sure that we serve the Commonwealth's students. Kindergarten is not a mandatory program but we're hoping the parents would seriously look into the program so we can serve their children before entering first grade," said Guerrero.

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Do Guam mantas plan moon parties?

Guam mantas will be forever mentioned in the scientific literature because of UOG Master of Biology candidate Julie Hartup's passion for her research subject. She has been studying Guam's *Manta alfredi* for eight years and is the first to document a very interesting behavior, mantas eating fish spawn.

Several of Hartup's paddler and free diving friends told her about seeing mantas congregating purposefully in an area where surgeonfish were spawning. Since they were able to give her an exact date, Julie was able to calculate the moon

phase, which is important as many fish synchronize their spawning with the moon. Using this information she predicted when the spawning event would occur that upcoming year and was there to witness a shoal of spawning surgeonfish accompanied by a fever of mantas.

Hartup's research findings not only highlight important information about mantas, but also reveal predictable spawning aggregations (SPAGs) for three important reef dwellers: *Acanthurus triostegus*, *Acanthurus guttatus*, *Acanthurus lineatus*. These surgeonfish react

to the presence of mantas by trying to evade them.

As is often the case with basic research, many more questions evolve out of finding a few answers.

"The mantas come in patterns. Are they herding the spawning fish? Is there cooperative behavior? How do the mantas know to come? Mantas are thought to be singular except for feeding or visiting cleaning station. Are they really singular or more social than we know? These are some of the questions I really want to investigate," said Hartup.

What science does know about mantas is that they live 40 to 50 years and are late to mature. They usually have only

one pup every two to five years, which takes 13 months to develop and comes out rolled up like a burrito. There is no parental care, so the pups navigate life without motherly guidance. No one knows where mantas have their young.

"I believe mantas must have a remarkable sensory system. Their cerebellum and frontal lobes are quite large so they are naturally curious and will check out humans in their vicinity," explained Hartup. Through direct observation, photographs, and videos she has documented 41 individuals in Guam, but there is a massive lack of information about the lives of mantas in Micronesia.

In 2008 the Yap state gov-

ernment passed Law No. 7-36 which designates "...all the internal and territorial waters of the State of Yap are hereby established as an official sanctuary for manta rays."

Hartup's research has been tapped by the Yap government to develop an effective management plan for the protection of the mantas in Yap. She has been collecting data on Yap's mantas for several years. "By understanding the lives of Micronesia's mantas, we'll know where to start protecting them."

Hartup wants to document

them before they are lost to the threats of human encroachment or habitat degradation.

About Hartup

Julie Hartup is the Mariana Islands Program Leader for the Manta Trust, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to research and conservation of mantas and their ocean home. She is making a difference in the region one manta at a time.

Please visit www.mantatrust.org for more information about manta research around the globe. (UOG)

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

time" that the former governor is brought to justice.

"He should be extradited to face the charges against him. I also supported the impeachment against him so there's no reason for me not to support a joint resolution to extradite him. If we keep on procrastinating, the statute of limitation may expire soon. It's time to do something," Taitano said.

Taitano and Dela Cruz are among the House members who voted to impeach Fitial—one in 2012 and one in 2013; but it was the latter that was successful after voters put into power most pro-impeachment lawmakers and candidates.

Dela Cruz was also the main author of a resolution urging the governor to initiate the process to extradite former attorney general Edward Taylor Buckingham III, who was convicted and sentenced on Wednesday related to misconduct and corruption.

After Buckingham's sentencing, the focus shifted to Fitial, who is facing criminal charges for his role in an alleged con-

spiracy to shield Buckingham from being served a penal summons in August 2012.

"There are still a lot of unanswered questions with regards to Mr. Buckingham's case. He even admitted himself that it wasn't his idea to have an escort service by public officials on government time. And so those are the things that we look at," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that there is an arrest warrant against the former governor.

"I think it's only right and fair that Mr. Fitial come back and answer those charges so that at least then maybe we can have closure on the issue. I believe that the impeachment process was just the first step. And the second step now is to try and have the former governor answer the charges that he's being charged with," the vice speaker added.

Inos, exactly a week after he was sworn in as governor in February last year, signed an extradition letter addressed to Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, for Buckingham.

For others like Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), for example, asking Inos to begin the extradition process for Fitial is a "very sensitive matter."

Inos and Fitial are longtime friends. When Fitial stepped down amid the impeachment process against him, an unprecedented event in CNMI history, his lieutenant governor Inos became governor.

Inos is running for governor in this November's general elections, with Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) as his running mate. Inos is currently in Washington, D.C. for a series of meetings and is not expected to be back until Feb. 28.

Hofschneider, the acting governor, said yesterday he has yet to talk to Inos about the matter.

But when asked what he would personally like to happen, he said, "I would like to see this issue resolved."

"And of course, one being out of the way already, and we like to get a closure, I'm sure the community would like to get a closure on the matter," he said.

When asked whether this means bringing Fitial back to the CNMI to face charges, Hofschneider said, "If that's what it takes to have a closure for this community, the CNMI, then that's the closure, it should be."

Hofschneider said he has also yet to speak to Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, be-

cause he is "on personal leave."

Some senators, meanwhile, said yesterday that when the House joint resolution urging the governor to initiate Fitial's extradition reaches the Senate, they would support it.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman initially issued an arrest warrant against Fitial on March 6, 2013, but withdrew it the following day and instead issued a penal summons that ordered Fitial to appear in court at 9am on the first Monday after receiving the summons.

But Fitial has never returned to the CNMI since he left in February 2013. The Office of the Public Auditor said Fitial has never communicated plans to return to the CNMI.

Only Fitial remains unserved with the arrest warrant in connection with the alleged conspiracy case. The other persons charged were Buckingham, former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordon Kosam, CPA's Capt. Juan T. Rebuenog, and Fitial's former personal driver and bodyguard, Jermaine Joseph W. Nekaifes.

this and it's really something beneficial to us. However, if somebody decides to quit [NMTI] and if we offered assistance, then where are we with that?" Pialur asked.

Like other SHEFA scholars, Sablan made it clear that NMTI students are also required to sign an agreement with SHEFA.

'SLL 16-8'

Saipan Local Law 16-8 entitles a non high-school student to avail of SHEFA financial awards if enrolled at NMTI. This was passed after the passage of the law that created SHEFA.

For Pialur, the mandates of SLL 16-8 in itself contradicts what the SHEFA program is intended for because under the existing rules and regulations of SHEFA, classification of recipients are undergraduate, graduate, and advanced students only. There was no inclusion for technical school certification purposes.

SHEFA

From Page 1

does not really authorize us to do so," he told colleagues during a meeting yesterday.

He said he is not against helping NMTI students but something solid must be established first to protect the board.

SHEFA board members later agreed to clarify matters first before acting on the matter.

SHEFA already awarded financial grants to NMTI students in 2010 but it was only recently that the board discovered that they have no copy of any previous board decision to extend financial aid to NMTI students.

SHEFA board chair Josephine Sablan disclosed yesterday that that of the 12 checks issued to NMTI students in 2010, two were returned to SHEFA. That was the first and last issuance from SHEFA af-

ter NMTI closed down for almost two years.

"Although it's been done before, but I think we need something 'black and white' for our safety and for the purpose of equality, not only for NMTI students but other trade schools. We need to revisit our rules and regulations to reflect that," Pialur said.

According to SHEFA administrator Merissa Seman-Rasa, 27 NMTI students have applied for financial assistance this semester. Of this number, more than half have asked to be denied so they could avail of the "higher" assistance from the Workforce Investment Agency.

SHEFA increased its financial assistance to NMTI scholars last year from \$800 per term to \$1,000 per term. WIA, meantime, pays the full year amount for NMTI scholars. A denial letter from SHEFA is a requirement of WIA.

Rasa could not immediately say when the planned policy

for NMTI will be finalized and enforced.

"We want to have the rules and regs first. We want to speed up [the process] so we can assist them as soon as possible," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Pialur met Wednesday with NMTI director Vic Cepeda where he was provided some records of the institution's enrollment, class schedule, and others.

However, board members expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of information received from the institution. Another meeting is set for next week to meet with NMTI anew.

Board members Ursula Aldan and John Tenorio pointed out the need for NMTI to show its solid curriculum and policy on requirements, among other documents, that would help the SHEFA board come up with a policy for the trade school.

"I see the need to push for

CASINO

From Page 1

"Things have changed over the past months," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*, hours before prefiling his Saipan casino bill along with a handful of co-sponsors.

He said that within the last few months, the government has been mandated to pay annually into a retirement settlement fund, pensions have been cut by 25 percent, and government health insurance premiums have increased, on top of other public health services.

"I still believe that casino will generate needed revenues to make payments to the settlement fund, restore 25 percent pension cut, generate jobs for the people. It would be a different bill because of the changes that happened recently," Demapan added.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately acknowledged yesterday that the Senate faces legal and technical challenges if it pursues its plan to reconsider the Saipan casino bill three months after it was "filed"—the legislative term for "shelved."

"We understand that there are questions about us reconsidering it a few months after it was filed, when we could have done it only a few days after it was filed or the very next session. I think it would be safer and easier if a new bill would be introduced in the House," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

During Tuesday's Senate session, senators were supposed to tackle the shelved casino bill. When they emerged from a closed-door meeting during a session break, the Senate leadership announced they won't be acting on the casino bill that day.

The Senate president, who was previously lukewarm to Saipan casino bills, said were it not for the required government payment into the retirement settlement fund—\$27 million in fiscal year 2015, \$30 million in fiscal year 2016 and so on—along with the need to restore the 25-percent pension cut, he wouldn't have thought about reconsidering a casino bill.

The Senate has nine members—three each from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Casino gaming is legal only on Rota and Tinian, whose leaders have been protective of their gaming in-

dustry. They claim their casinos would be harmed if casinos are also allowed on Saipan.

Demapan, meanwhile, said the new gaming bill is expected to pass the House once again. In June last year, a Saipan casino bill passed the House by a vote of 13-7 after more than six hours of debate that latest until almost 8pm.

The floor leader said other changes in the past few months that led him to introduce a new bill included the signing of laws legalizing video lottery and electronic gaming.

"Because we already have electronic gaming and video lottery laws, I changed the bill to only allow a single casino license on Saipan rather than multiple licenses as the earlier bill offered. But I want this single license holder to build a casino from the ground up to the roof to maximize revenues and jobs for the CNMI," Demapan said.

The proposed Saipan casino license requires \$30 million payment upfront, and \$15 million every year thereafter until the duration of the license.

Each license is for 25 years, with the option to extend for another 15 years or a total of 40 years. This means the license alone could cost some \$600 million in a 40-year period, and this still excludes the business gross revenue, other taxes and fees, plus the multiplier effect in the economy.

The casino application fee alone is \$1 million.

Legalizing casino operations on Saipan has been a divisive issue.

Its opponents have been citing casino gaming's social ills, among other things, and have been pushing for other revenue-generating ideas. They said Saipan already has poker machines and soon, video lottery terminals and electronic gaming.

Casino initiatives were rejected twice before by Saipan voters.

Lawmakers supporting casino gaming on Saipan said this is the only industry that could immediately pump millions into the government coffers just on application fee and license alone. They added that there has never been alternatives proposed that could generate millions in a short period of time to help retirees and provide more funds for public health, public safety, and education.

OAG: Tang's calculation of employer contributions incorrect

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Settlement Fund trustee Joyce CH. Tang's calculations of employer contributions are incorrect and that she has not acted on the CNMI government's repeated requests for regular monthly reports, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

'An elected AG should know when to say no to governor'

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo is optimistic that by next year the CNMI will have its first elected attorney general who can say "no" to any illegal acts the governor may ask him to do.

During the sentencing of former AG Edward T. Buckingham on public corruption charges on Wednesday, Govendo said it is exceptionally difficult for an appointed AG to say no to the governor.

In fact, the judge said, he only remembers one CNMI AG who disagreed with the governor, but subsequently resigned. He did not disclose the name of that former AG.

In the CNMI government's response to Tang's Feb. 12 report, assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel objected to Tang's alleged incorrect calculation of employer contributions as well as an unjustified proposed increase in wages and salaries.

Patel said that Tang states that the outstanding employer con-

tributions due from the CNMI government for the pay period Oct. 4, 2013, to Jan. 11, 2014, is \$419,120.19.

Patel said that Tang miscalculated the amount of employer contributions that would have been due in those periods.

Patel said the CNMI has made several employer contribution payments and that upon discovering any deficient amounts, the government promptly paid any and all past due sums.

The lawyer said the CNMI calculates the employer contributions for the remaining active defined benefit plan employees at about \$20,000 to \$26,000 per pay period.

She pointed out that there were eight pay periods in the first quarter.

"Therefore, the total amount of employer contributions payable by the CNMI government would be approximately \$200,000," Patel said.

Upon discovering the calculation error, Patel said, she emailed the Fund's administrator and legal counsel regarding the discrepancy.

Several days later, she said, the trustee sent the government revised calculations of the employer contributions that are substantially similar to the government's figures.

Unfortunately, Patel said, the Settlement Fund, despite having daily communications with Gov. Eloy Inos' team, failed to raise the issue of the deficient employer contributions before the trustee filed

her report on Feb. 11.

"Had the issue been communicated earlier, this matter would have been resolved several months earlier," she said.

Patel said that on Feb. 14, the government remitted six checks to the Settlement Fund, one for each pay period.

"Therefore, as of the date of this filing, the CNMI government is fully current on its employer contribution payments," she said.

In the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014, the trustee's report requests that the wage salary and employer expenses be increased by about 18.6 percent.

Patel said this is a tremendous increase considering that during the second period, the employees retain their status as

employees of the CNMI Retirement Fund.

Patel noted that most of the employees of the Fund are part of the CNMI civil service and that the government has been under austerity measures, preventing any civil service employee salary increases.

"The government's financial resources are limited, and thus should be managed in the most efficient and judicious manner," she said.

On the government's repeated request for Tang to provide regular monthly reports, Patel said they have not received one to date. Such reports, she pointed out, are an integral part of the smooth compliance with the Betty Johnson settlement agreement in the future.

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House OKs mandatory hookup to CUC, pension bond bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Requiring hotels and other commercial businesses to hook up to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power grid moved forward on Wednesday with the House of Representatives' passage of House Bill 18-41, along with seven other bills that included one that would pave the way for the government to float \$120 million or less in pension obligation bond using business gross receipts as pledge.

Other bills passed included a new \$25 surcharge fee per scuba dive customer and a new tax amnesty period ending 90 days after the measure is signed into law.

House members debated at length or until past 5pm

Wednesday Rep. Tony Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) HB 18-41 on the mandatory hookup to CUC.

Despite strong opposition of some members, Sablan's floor amendment was adopted, so that CUC "may determine timing of connection based on availability of supply, connection costs, net metering considerations and other matters necessary to the implementation of this provision."

The amended bill passed by a vote of 15-4 with one absence. HB 18-41, House Draft 1 now goes to the Senate.

The four "no" votes were from vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), Reps. George Camacho (R-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul

(Ind-Saipan).

Dela Cruz warned that CUC may only be claiming a reduction in power costs for everyone once major hotels and other big businesses connect to CUC, but won't do any such cost reduction later on.

"To give CUC authority and expect it to reduce rates, to me, that's wishful thinking," Dela Cruz said during discussions.

Yumul, for his part, said that if CUC is serious in bringing back commercial businesses to its grid, it should approach these businesses rather than have the Legislature do something about it.

But Sablan said there's nothing in the Constitution that prohibits lawmakers from finding solutions to reduce the high costs of power.

Yumul said he's not putting a roadblock, but said if the Legislature is really keen on helping to reduce power costs, it should appropriate money to pay the government's multimillion debt to CUC so that the corporation can finance its operations without having to resort to rate increases every now and then.

Hotels and other businesses earlier raised concerns about the bill, saying it would cost them much more to hook up to CUC

» 8 bills passed include new \$25 fee for scuba divers, tax amnesty

rather than use their own power.

But proponents of the bill said these businesses should share the burden and make utility costs lower for everyone by adding to the CUC customer base.

Bond bill

The House also debated—and later passed by a vote of 16-3—Rep. Mario Taitano's (Ind-Saipan) HB 18-171, amending the pension obligation bond law or Public Law 18-12 to allow the use of gross receipt taxes as pledge to the debt service, among other things.

The new target of \$120 million is still within the "up to \$300 million limit" allowed by the POB law, although the Inos administration earlier said it's only looking at \$60 million to \$80 million.

Besides Yumul, Reps. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) and Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) also voted "no" to the bond bill.

During discussion, Yumul offered a floor amendment that would have required a strong fiscal plan, final legislative approval and devoting all bond proceeds to the retirement settlement fund. But Yumul's floor amendment was defeated by a vote of 11-8.

Yumul said it's "unfortunate" that his floor amendment was shot down at a time when the result of a \$120 million bond float has yet to be realized.

"We haven't grasped the result, five years from now or when we have to pay the bond back. This body has not identified any funds that would service this one," Yumul told

Saipan Tribune, adding that the business gross receipts tax is only a pledge or "collateral" and not a means for repayment.

"Like I have said, the government spent \$3 million over what was budgeted. What does that say to investors? We can't even have a balanced budget and can't stick to the [fiscal] plan, that's why my amendment is to have a strong fiscal plan [before floating a bond]... We don't have the foresight, we don't see beyond this election year. It's unfortunate that our children are going to end up paying for it," Yumul added.

Tax amnesty, \$25 scuba diver fee

Rep. Tony Sablan's tax amnesty measure or HB 18-166, HD1 passed by a vote of 18-2; the "no" votes came from Yumul and Villagomez.

The revenue-generating bill, now on its way to the Senate, provides for a tax amnesty expiring 90 days after it becomes law. Under a tax amnesty program, taxpayers may request for the waiver of penalty and interest imposed on late-filed returns, under-reported income, and delinquent tax liabilities.

By a vote of 19-0, the House also passed Wednesday Rep. Roman Benavente's (Ind-Saipan) HB 18-72, imposing an additional \$25 surcharge per customer availing of scuba dive services.

The bill seeks to generate funds to buy, install, operate and maintain decompression chambers for government health centers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

FOR STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Saipan Mayor's Office needs host families

The Saipan Mayor's Office is looking for local families who are willing to host Japanese students visiting this year for cultural exchange programs.

This summer, two groups of Japanese students will be visiting Saipan: one from the Sanpo-en School and the other, the Itoda School.

The Sanpo-en group requires about 40 families to host students—both girls and boys—ages 11 to 18. They are expected to arrive at the end of July and early August.

The Itoda School includes both girls and boys ages 10 to 13. There will be about 10 to 12 students accompanied by chaperones and will be doing home stay for one week. Expected times of arrival are between June to August.

During Japan's winter season, two groups will be visiting. The first one are Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai students from different parts of Japan. About six host families are needed for 12 students who will be staying up to one week. Their ages varies from 9 to 12 years old. The group will be arriving twice in 2014. One group will arrive in

July and the other is expected in December.

Johoku Boys High School includes only boys. About 70 host families are needed to host boys ranging from ages 15 to 17 years. The JBHS students are part of an instrumental team called "Kimura Ryu" and play the instruments called *koto*, a traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument similar to guitars or banjos. They will be doing a five-day home stay and are expected to be on Saipan from Nov. 17 to Nov. 21.

For more than two decades now the Saipan Mayor's Office has been hosting these cultural exchange programs.

Larissa Flores and Joann Aquino, home stay program coordinators for the mayor's office, said they need the community's support for the home stay component of these cultural exchanges.

Interested families can pick up home stay applications at the Saipan Mayor's Office at the Ladera Center on Beach Road or contact Flores or Aquino at 234-6208, 234-6280, 235-7304. (Jayson Camacho)

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Matson to raise fuel surcharge 5 pct. for Guam, NMI

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Guam's only shipper, Matson, has announced a 5-percent increase in its fuel surcharge for Guam, CNMI, Micronesia, and Hawaii routes.

That means the fuel surcharge for the Guam, CNMI, and Micronesia service will rise from

36.5 percent to 41.5 percent for its Guam, CNMI and Micronesia services. For Hawaii the surcharge goes from 34.5 percent to 39.5 percent.

The increase takes effect March 23.

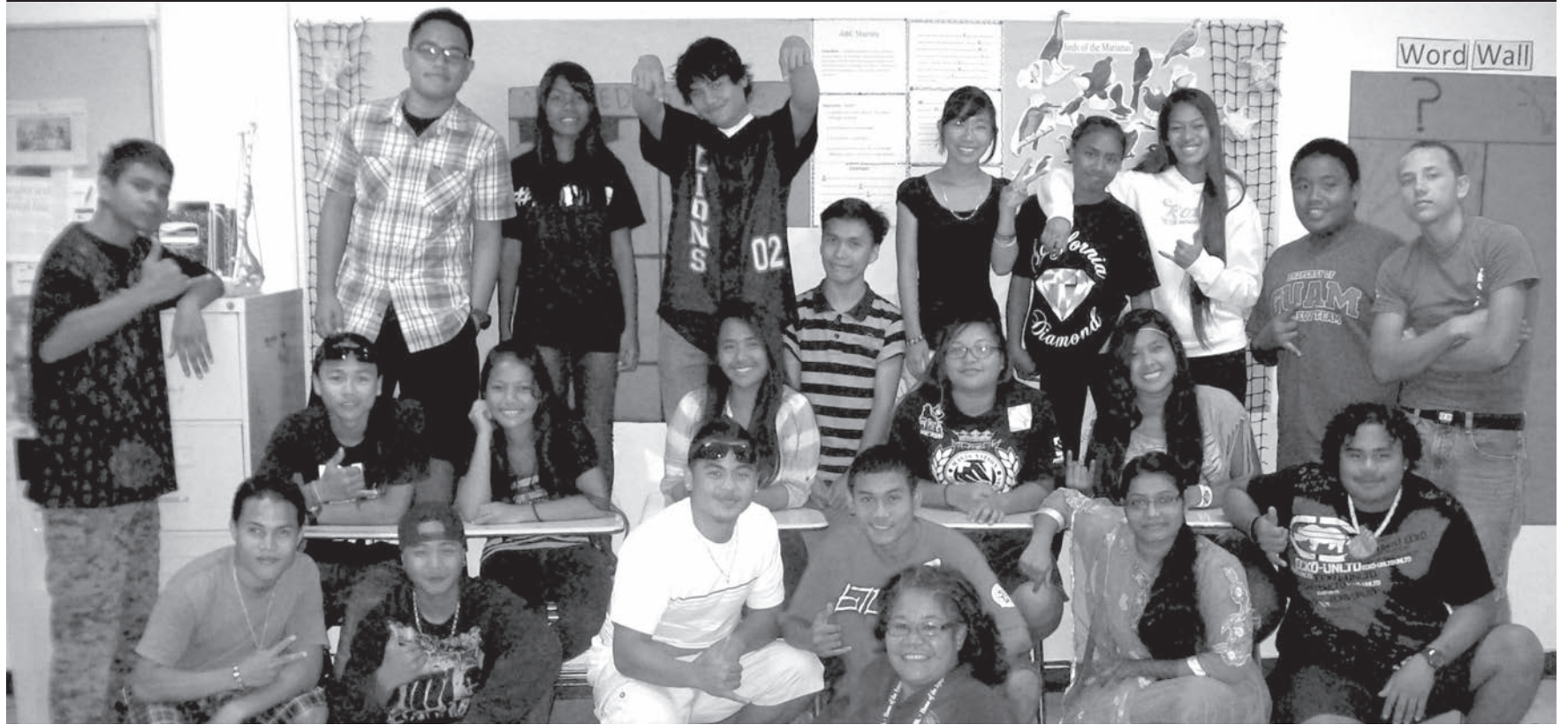
A notice to customers from Matson's director of Public Re-

lations, Jeff Hull, states that the increase is the result of "high fuel prices and other energy related costs."

Dave Hoppes, Matson's senior vice president of Ocean Services is quoted in the statement as saying: "We are now seeing the impact of Emis-

sion Control Area regulations that were implemented in 2012, which require carriers to burn the more costly low-sulfur distillate fuel 200 miles off U.S. coastlines. For Matson, this has resulted in increased fuel costs for about 20 percent of each voyage, both westbound and eastbound."

The adjustment is the first increase Matson has taken since October 2012 and follows three consecutive decreases for the company's Hawaii service, which totaled nine percentage points, and one decrease for Guam/CNMI and Micronesia of 3.5 percentage points.



FUN IN CLASS

Kagman High School's NMI History first period class celebrates the birthday of Any Mehebob, one of their classmates. We love you Any! Lots of love from Ms. Josie Kaipat and classmates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Woman allegedly hits husband with chair

A woman allegedly hit her husband with a chair at their apartment unit in Garapan early Monday morning after accusing him of having an affair.

Police said the couple's 11-year-old son, who witnessed the incident, was crying as he was talking to a responding police officer.

The victim's left shoulder

was bruised and he complained of pain, police said.

Ayumu Sakurada Yanai, 33, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Her bail was kept at \$6,250 cash.

Police detective Isapen Boku-kku stated in her report that Yanai had been drinking while the vic-

tim and his children were sleeping in the bedroom. Around 1am, Yanai confronted her husband and accused him of having a girlfriend.

The couple went to the living room where their argument escalated. Yanai allegedly started punching her husband in the chest. Yanai then allegedly hit the husband with an unknown

object, causing him to fall to the floor. While on the floor, she allegedly hit him with a chair on the left shoulder.

The couple's 11-year-old son, who was awakened by the noise, got out of the bedroom and saw his mother hitting his father with the chair.

Police learned that it was not the first time that the couple engaged in domestic violence. (Ferdie de la Torre)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Jose Reyes Sablan "Capt." May God bless you on your special day! Cheers to the big 60! With love from your Reyes, Sablan, and Masga families.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 21, 2006

Economy took a beating in '05

The Commonwealth's economic decline in 2005 showed up virtually across the board, with the garment industry the hardest hit, as shown by a huge drop of almost 40 percent in its export value compared with the previous year. The latest economic indicators recently released by the Department of Commerce showed that garment export value totaled \$500.8 million in 2005—a 39.4-percent decrease from the previous year's \$826 million. This also reflects a 50-percent decline compared with the 1997-1998 level.

granting loans to nonresident workers based on "irregular" employment status in the CNMI, Bank of Hawaii said it continues to treat contract workers the same way it does all other loan applicants. Honolulu-based BoH executive vice president Ronald H. Leach said the bank follows the same criteria for all applicants when it comes to credit or loan applications. He said that, although the bank made some changes in its credit program in view of overall economic condition in the Commonwealth, it makes no distinction against a certain group of people.

February 21, 2007

Immigration to go after IRs whose sponsoring spouses have left NMI

'No loan discrimination vs nonresidents'

While some banks have stopped

The Division of Immigration

will be vigorously going after people who have Immediate Relative status, but whose sponsoring spouses have departed the CNMI, according to Immigration director Melvin Grey. "We have too many IRs who have absentee spouses. And this is inappropriate with the new law passed in the end of last year," said Grey in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. Grey disclosed they will start sending this week revocation notices to IRs whose spouses have departed the CNMI for some time.

Japan arrivals down 17 percent

Japan arrivals dropped 17 percent during the first month of the year, owing to the suspension of the Osaka flight last October, said the Marinas Visitors Authority. "With the suspension of the Osaka flight by Northwest Airlines, Japan arrivals decreased [by 17 percent]. We are working hard to fill the void left by Northwest Airlines to assure that our Japan arrival numbers increase," said MVA managing

director Perry Tenorio yesterday. From 25,555 tourists in January 2006, the figure went down to 21,302 last month. In the first four months of fiscal year 2007, Japan arrivals totaled 79,321, reflecting a 16-percent drop compared with the same period last year.

February 21, 2008

Furey resigns from NMC board

Eloise A. Furey has stepped down as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents. According to Furey, she submitted her letter of resignation to the Governor's Office in early February. She declined to give her reason for suddenly withdrawing from the Board of Regents after six years of being a member. NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and Board of Regents chair Joey San Nicholas also refused to comment on Furey's decision to resign.

Cohen heads new Pacific biz advisory team

The Bush administration's for-

mer point person for insular areas has joined an international law firm and will help head a new venture to advise companies that invest and operate in the Pacific. David B. Cohen, who stepped down as deputy assistant secretary for Insular Affairs last month, now works with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. He will co-head DWT Pacific, which is the first unified trans-Pacific legal and business advisory team in the market. "In nearly six years as the U.S. government's point person for the Pacific, I worked closely with business and government leaders to drive investment to the islands and create new opportunities for the people living there," Cohen said in a statement. "I am delighted to be able to continue that work with DWT Pacific, albeit from a different vantage point. We have the right people and the right structure to really add value for companies doing business all across the Pacific," added Cohen, who will be based in DWT's Los Angeles office.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Child seat checkpoints today**

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting occupant protection/child passenger courtesy checkpoints today, Feb. 21, 2014. The first setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe, in front of Minatchom Atdao, on the southbound lane, from 1:30pm to 2:45pm. The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane., from 4pm to 5:15pm. For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas at (670) 483-5818. *(DPS)*

Calling all Kagman schools parents!

All Kagman schools will be holding their joint PTSA meeting on Monday, Feb. 24, at 6pm at the Kagman High School campus cafeteria. All Kagman Elementary, Chacha Oceanview and Kagman High School parents, guardians and stakeholders are invited to the monthly PTSA meeting. The Joint Kagman PTSA meeting is held every last Monday of the month and will alternate campuses. This month, the Kagman High School culinary arts class will be hosting refreshments. All PTSA attendees will get to try the delectable treats so don't be left out! Come to the KHS Café Monday at 6pm and support your kids in school! *(PR)*

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Obyan Beach, Ladder Beach, and Unai Dangkulo on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. DEQ analyzed water samples taken from 12 Saipan east and south recreational beaches this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. *(PR)*

Family Fun Night fundraiser at WSR

William S. Reyes Elementary School will be hosting a Family Fun Night Fundraiser at the school campus in Chalan Kanoa this Friday. Doors will be open from 4:30pm to 9pm and will feature entertainment, games, and food. The fundraiser was made possible by William S. Reyes Elementary School's PTSA. *(PR)*

Air Force training on Naval Base Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct cargo aircraft delivery operations in the waters between Agat Bay and Orote Point on Naval Base Guam on Feb. 21, 26, and 27 from 8:15am to 9am. This exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military personnel. Coast Guard and Air Force personnel will be on shore and on boats to monitor operations. Boats, divers and base personnel are to remain clear of these areas during the dates and times indicated. *(PR)*

Shenanigans now a licensed Certified Angus Beef restaurant

Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods announced yesterday that Shenanigans Restaurant is now a licensed Certified Angus Beef restaurant. As a licensee, Shenanigans ensures its customers that they serve only the best beef available on Saipan.

Established in February 2010, Shenanigans has been a popular eatery among locals and tourist alike, serving international cuisine with their popular Shenanigans Famous Wrap, burgers, fresh salads, a variety of pasta dishes and sandwiches, to include their New York Steak in Peppercorn Sauce and T-Bone Steak in Bordelaise Sauce. They will soon

be adding a Ribeye Steak to their menu.

Becoming a Certified Angus Beef restaurant further solidifies Shenanigans' uniqueness among island restaurants and provides confidence to their customers of the quality of food their restaurant serves.

Restaurant owner Bel Busby stated: "Shenanigans is extremely proud to be a licensed Certified Angus Beef restaurant as it has always been our goal to serve our customers the very best! We

are extremely happy with the Certified Angus Beef brand steaks as it is a quality product but moreover we know our customers will enjoy it. We look forward to working

closely with our friends at Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods in organizing beef and wine events in the very

near future."

"Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods congratulates Shenanigans Restaurant for becoming one of a small group of restaurants on Saipan that can say they are a licensed

Certified Angus Beef restaurant," said Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods general manager Jay Santos. "We are extremely happy for Bel Busby and her team as they continuously strive to provide their customers only the very best. I look forward to working closely with Bel in coming up with beef events that her customers will enjoy."

Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods is a subsidiary of Triple J Saipan, Inc. and has been the exclusive distributor for Certified Angus Beef for well over 10 years. They take great pride in providing quality foodservice products to hotels, restaurants, and retail stores on Saipan. *(Triple J)*



Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods **congratulates Shenanigans Restaurant** for becoming an elite group of restaurants serving Certified Angus Beef® entrees. Stop by Shenanigans Restaurant for abundantly flavorful, incredibly tender and naturally juicy Certified Angus Beef® Ribeye, New York and T-Bone steaks!



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

The nightmare that is North Korea

It's one thing to know that third-generation strongman Kim Jong Un maintains an iron grip on North Korea's 25 million people. It's another thing to read the horrifying particulars of how his regime wields its control—through starvation, torture, rape, summary executions and the disappearance of tens of thousands of citizens into an extralegal prison labor-camp system.

The details are contained in a report compiled by an international team of investigators led by respected Australian jurist Michael Kirby and released this week by the United Nations' Human Rights Council. The report, based on more than 300 interviews with people who have left the country, accuses the regime of a wide range of crimes against humanity and recommends that the U.N. Security Council refer the matter to the International Criminal Court for prosecution.

The report paints a picture of a society characterized by "almost complete denial of the right to freedom of thought," in which the state "operates an all-encompassing indoctrination machine." The state determines where people may live and what work they may do, severely restricts access to TV and radio, and monitors the phone calls of its citizens. Police routinely use violence "to create a climate of fear that preempts any challenge to the current system of government." For those who don't get the message, the state uses torture, execution and the allocation of food to control people.

We have been skeptical of the Human Rights Council in the past. Among the issues: Some of the very nations whose human rights records should be investigated are members of the council. At this moment, that includes China, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan. But Kirby's report is clear-eyed in its assessment and principled in its recommendations. Significantly, the report castigates China for denying investigators access to North Korean refugees in its border region, and accuses it of complicity in the atrocities by returning some refugees to North Korea.

The question is, what will the rest of the world do about it? It's doubtful that even a scathing U.N. report will persuade China to change its policies, or that Kim and his cadre will ultimately be called to account before the International Criminal Court. Much as Russia has shielded the Syrian government from Security Council actions, so too has China protected North Korea. It has the power to block a prosecution with its veto.

That doesn't absolve the international community of its responsibility to try to bring North Korea's oppressive leaders to justice. In fact, those efforts are overdue. The extent of the regime's repression is well known; many of these abuses have been detailed over the years by the *Los Angeles Times'* Beijing bureau chief, Barbara Demick.

The Security Council should send this case to the International Criminal Court. China should stand on the side of morality and pocket its veto.

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Sleep tight

A balanced diet and good habits are important for optimal health. Fortunately, Saipan gets high marks on this count: Beer and canned meat provide a broad nutritional foundation, while cigarettes offer the relaxing satisfaction that helps manage stress.

But we don't want to get too complacent about things, since, yes, even for us there's room for some improvement. So here's something from the experts that might be an easy sell: Get your sleep.

Modern science has apparently awakened to the fact that plain ol' sleep is actually a critical component of health. I think I noted this topic last year, but it doesn't lack for press this year either, so it sure isn't going away.

In fact, the warnings about sleep deprivation seem to be getting more dire; heck, it's enough to keep us awake at night.

One big idea is that sleep unleashes the cleanup crew for the brain, which flushes out toxins so they can be tossed overboard. It's possible, so they say, that a lack of sleep can cause actual brain damage.

Meanwhile, some really nasty afflictions, such as cancer and heart disease, are said to be linked to a lack of sleep.

Normal slobos like me will never understand all the fancy science, but all of us have to make our own decisions about this stuff anyway.

As for me, all-nighters for work or travel never bothered me much. Maybe it's not healthy, but it's easier for me to face this stuff than the zombie-like regularity that is so common these days.

In fact, like it or not, and healthy or not, being able to function with very little sleep is simply a demand for some professions. This isn't news to anyone who has served in the military and who associates that groggy, fog-minded "zero dark hundred" feeling with their days in uniform.

As for a longer-term nocturnal schedule, as opposed to the occasional all-nighter, my pals and I agree that the older we get, the more grinding those gigs are. These are hard miles to put on the odometer, especially when you're well beyond your warranty point.

The paradox, however, is that of the most deeply unhappy people I've seen, the vast majority had safe, comfortable, day-time jobs and routines.

So, while modern life alleviates many a man from having to, say,

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

stand watch on a ship's bridge at 3am in some lonely fold of the south Pacific, I'm not convinced that modern life can fill the gap with anything better. There's no formal way to tally the balance, but at some point you have to sit in your beach chair and live in your memories.

For those needing a bit of occasional help to shift into the sleep mode, I'll note that one popular method is to take a pill called Melatonin. This is a hormone the body produces to, among other things, regulate the sleep routine. The last time I looked it was easily found, over-the-counter, on Saipan. It's cheap. Note that I'm saying it's popular, but I'm not saying that you ought to take it, since that's sure not my call.

If you get inspired to do some Web surfing about the topic, you'll see that Melatonin is pretty interesting stuff. It apparently plays a role even in plant life.

Speaking of plant life, one thing I've noticed over the years is that

many people seem to prefer watching TV to getting enough sleep. I suppose the more recent twist on this is computers, smartphones, or whatever.

Smartphones are proving to a great example of this effect. The draw of that electronic screen is so compelling that it can override even basic biological signals, such as (a) it's time to go to sleep, or (b) you're about to drive your car into an oncoming pickup truck.

When I was young the very notion of sleep was an affront to my sense of efficiency. But now that I'm older I reckon that efficiency is overrated, so the only affront I'm dealing with is a cheeseburger that's sitting right affront of me now. And, after heeding this opportunity for good nutrition, I'm going to take a nap. How's that for healthy?



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A tale of misery

With a browbeaten face, my friend tries to figure out the deepening misery in what's supposed to be the "paradise" of all who live in this golden archipelago. He was hoping for a less political discussion just so he understands what went wrong in recent past that landed most people in fatal or subterranean economic misery.

Is it in deceptive and regressive provincialism that doesn't provide answers to the more substantive issues? Is it in the politics of self-destruction, openly boasting nepotism at the expense of the wellbeing of the less politically connected? Is it in the poor quality of leadership that has problems with reading comprehension and perception, therefore the humiliating disconnect with issues of significance? Is it in the disconnection of mind and heart, mouth shooting off without engaging the brain? Is it in the obvious lack of commitment to fulfill fiduciary responsibility?

It's mind-boggling the apathy that leaves humanity in the back seat. There's the troubling separation from reality altogether.

It's obvious the chain reaction of failure of recent past that continues torching every corner of the CNMI. It sends everyone reeling and pining for answers, hurting from the ravages of hardship. Now the captain and his crew are standing on the bow of their rescue boat, yelling at the iceberg. It's misery taking its most virulent assault because leadership has simply failed grandly too.

Meeting reality: My friend's retirement pay was reduced to zero when the new health premium kicked in. He still must cough up about \$1,000 for deductible upon renewal and deal with a 40-percent increase in medication cost. This unwelcome addition draining his meager income as he maps out increases in power bills and basic commodities. What has leadership done to our already decimated income from the 25 percent cut?

Said he: "Sounds almost embarrassing but I now must divide a can of tuna into three meals in order to stretch what's left in food items in the kitchen. Our source of light at night has been a single 40-watt light bulb and even that may have to be dimmed completely." His observation and the hardship he has to endure are found in nearly every household Marianas-wide. It's really tough going as we head off apoplectic quizzing what else lies ahead.

Are we not paying dearly for politicians' fear, disorientation, inaction, and indecision on the dire need to privatize CUC so a competent firm could fix the mess before we begin experiencing rolling blackouts? Must we continue paying unaffordable power rates as a result of politicians' complicity to CUC's incompetence?

Election year: Familial economic misery is one tough issue to bluff with the usual "biba" and the chancy regurgitation of the failed "better times." If you haven't done anything of substance to rein in wealth and jobs creation, your trip to the mound this year would be difficult, it not completely futile. In other words, you've dimmed the economic light (*kandet*) of families as a result of your inaction. We are also ready to turn off the *kandet* of your political career permanently.

You've failed to bring the livelihood of the multitude into a bright new morning or dawn of hope. The collateral damage is real and it's next to impossible juggling what's left in the family pocketbooks to meet obligations. I'm sure you know by heart the lyrical high price of your inaction and obvious apathy. Listen to the villagers for you will hear their true sentiments! It isn't very encouraging for incumbents either.

Politics of nepotism

Years ago, Rota was well on its way to fostering economic opportunities, but this was gradually decimated or destroyed by the politics of nepotism. There was a tyrant who killed entrepreneurship hailing from others in the community. In other words, if the family isn't into it, the venture is basically a dead fish in the water.

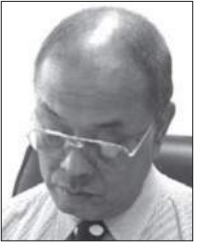
But this has slowly faded into history when the tyrant left the scene and his understudy was soundly defeated in his re-election bid. It slammed open the floodgates of economic opportunities for everybody! It's a good beginning! It grants ordinary citizens the opportunity to look forward to a bright new morning. People have basically taken back what's theirs: their island and their future!

Farming reached unprecedented level with help from real technical experts from the School of Tropical Agriculture, University of Tokyo. Shipping was doing well, moving goods to and from the island. Both were destroyed when the politics of nepotism forced

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



both farming and shipping from moving forward. Rota is where it is today, struggling to rebuild a once strong bridge traveled by all. Slow the process may be, it would reach its aspired goal for everyone in the next couple of years.

The statist government is history. Rota is free!

Stop the bleeding now!

The CNMI must learn to domesticate spending on spending. For instance, there are 53 major offices in government, discounting those downstairs and a useless bicameral Legislature.

It's time we privatize CUC, CHC, half of PSS, CPA and all offices competing with private industries. Serious realignment is also an imperative assignment. It's a savings of more than \$80 million annually taxpayers need not deal with paying for royal inefficiencies in the public sector.

Have services improved with more than 2,000 government drone workers? Are taxpayers getting their money's worth with redundancy and inefficiency? A lot of the inefficiency is rooted in the political promotion of employees definitely lacking knowledge-based qualifications in areas they are assigned to.

For instance, if you're an executive secretary or human resource manager, do you have the academic competence and professional (with industrial level competency) wherewithal for your unearned lucrative job? There's a gulf of difference between education and experience. It becomes highly critical that this political contagion is stopped dead on its track so it isn't encouraged in perpetuity at the expense of taxpayers!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too beautiful to destroy

On a rainy day and after one hour and 30 minutes of flight from Saipan to Pagan, my heart was beating hard because I was scared knowing that we will be landing on a rough grassy field with no medical support on the ground in case we crash. As we descended and circled around the island, my heart stopped pounding as I looked down at one of the most awesome view of the paradise island Pagan. As we descended on the southwest side of the island, the view was so phenomenal it's like Jurassic Park, it threw me back in time millions of year ago. The cliff was a blend of colors like red oxide, purple, yellow, and chocolate. I still have in my memory a sight of a coconut palm protruding upward on a rock at the cliff. I also saw an unusual beach slanted almost 45 degree upward and inland. The green coconut palms were in groups several miles long—all awesome to see.

When we landed and got out from the airplane the first thing I saw was the huge volcano puffing out steam from the rain. I said to myself, "Oh my God, this is the most amazing view I've ever see in my life," a huge volcano rising 1,800 feet into the clouds and into the blue sky.

As I walked along the beach at the north bay, I saw how beautiful

the black sand was, in contrast to the surrounding blue water and green vegetation. The black color of the sand was striking to see, compared to the white sand that I was used to. I never realized that black is truly a beautiful color.

North of the black beach on the same bay, about 20 feet from the shoreline, lies a lake surrounded by evergreen pine trees. The pine trees are shorter than the pine trees on Saipan. The lake is clear and turquoise blue from the reflection of the pine trees. It is distinctively clean and beautiful compare to Lake Susupe on Saipan.

Further up north at the side of the volcano lies a hot spring, half of which is covered with pozzolan minerals. The lake is clear, hot and sparkling clean.

Most of the spectacular view of Pagan can be seen by boats on water. As we rode the boat to the south bay, I noticed that we were followed by a group of dolphins jumping up and down showing their aerobic skills. A bunch of them came close to the boat and were making high-pitched sounds and crying like they wanted to talk to us. Another amazing fish is the flying fish, so big and so magnificent to see how they fly over the surface of the water. The water is filled with marine life, teeming with reef

fish of different colors. As we cruised further south away from the island, the formation of the island gave a view like the island is majestically floating on the ocean. The sight of thousands of birds flying above the ocean and over the island's coast added to the beautiful picture.

At night, the island with no city lights turns the dark sky on with millions of stars so close and so bright. Occasionally, I saw the incredible sight of falling stars streaking across the sky. At dawn and sunset the sky turns golden red over and beyond the horizon of the Pacific Ocean.

God created this beautiful paradise over millions of years. It exists to be preserved, protected and to be enjoyed. It's not for the military to contaminate and destroy. Anything that is beautiful gives pleasure to the mind, and pleasure with tranquility is health. Pagan is that island—too healthy and too beautiful to destroy. Let's sustain Pagan for our health, safety, and welfare. Please save Pagan. Sign the petition at www.savepaganisland.org

Herman B. Cabrera

Garapan, Saipan

Some answers to your questions

In reference to Ms. Winnie Atalig's letter to the editor to Mr. Ambrose Bennett, I could not help but throw in my opinion about you questioning the difference between marijuana and tobacco, etc. Statistic shows that alcohol has taken so many lives in the past five years. Tobacco and other drugs have taken so many lives in the past five years. Statistics, however, show that marijuana has taken zero lives in the past 50 years. Nobody has overdosed on marijuana. I mean, you do the math.

Like what Mr. Bennett mentioned in his letter to the editor, drugs are medically defined as a substance of which something is made (by man) that is use as medicine. Your question was how does marijuana affect out health? Here is your answer. Early studies showed some evidence linking marijuana to lung cancer, but subsequent studies have debunked that association. Scientist are unclear why marijuana smoke does not have the same result as tobacco smoke on the lungs, but possibly some beneficial

compounds in the marijuana smoke cancel out the ill effects, or perhaps the other health habits of marijuana smokers are different from those of cigarette smokers.

Look at it this way: There are more side effects in drugs that are legalized by FDA than marijuana in itself. When you have a severe headache you would go to a pharmacy and purchase your drug. In this case it would be ibuprofen. Ibuprofen helps your headache but damages your organs. And when you continue to have headaches you will take it over and over and over again until one of your organs shuts down. Think about it.

Question #2: History of other places that made marijuana legal? For your information there are about 20 states in the United States of America where marijuana is legal.

Question #3: How did it change their economy? According to 300 economists, including three Nobel laureates, if the government legalizes the use of marijuana it would save approxi-

mately \$7.7 billion annually by not enforcing the prohibition on the use of marijuana. It would also save the government extra billions of dollars if you tax marijuana at rates similar to alcohol and tobacco. Can you imagine how much our government would save?

Question# 4: How would it reduce crimes? Even without marijuana being legalized, crimes are committed every single day. This is my opinion on how we can reduce crimes. Let's have the Department of Public Safety campaign on reducing crime by the way of promoting Crime Stoppers and aligning with community effort. If the community is more involved in helping DPS and Crime Stoppers, I believe that we may not stop all crimes but we can prevent and reduce crimes.

Garrett F. Quichocho

Sinapalu, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲86° ▼76°

SATURDAY

Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲86° ▼76°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲85° ▼76°

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

▲85° ▼76°

TUESDAY

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

▲86° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲84 ▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲74 ▼67
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼31
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼59
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼69
London	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲71 ▼54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼71
New York	Thunderstorms	▲50 ▼34
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲45 ▼34
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼39
Pusan	Sunny	▲49 ▼38
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲62 ▼48
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲50 ▼30
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲65 ▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲44 ▼29
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼34
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲59 ▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image

Picture Time: 1:00PM, Thursday, February 20, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near equatorial-trough extends from 3N130E to 5N140E through a circulation located near Chuuk at 7N151E to 4N160E to 3N168E to end near EQ170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located over Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 10N from 147E to 158E and south of Yap between the equator and 2N from 137E to 144E and southeast of Kosrae between the equator and 3N from 165E to 170E. Low-level convergence north of the trough is producing some clouds and showers across Palau and Yap between 6N and 9N from 130E to 143E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Majuro between 7N and 11N from 169E to 180. A cold front stretches from 25N137E to beyond 130E at 19N. Clouds and showers can be found along and up to 500 miles north of the boundary.

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:36 PM	10:34 AM
Saturday		11:23 AM
Sunday	12:32 AM	12:16 PM
Monday	1:30 AM	1:12 PM
Tuesday	2:28 AM	2:12 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ102	2:20am	5:50am	3
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)
DZ104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5
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SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
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SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:05am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/473	6:00am	10:55pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR11	8:40am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:30pm	5 via Guam
UA5039/183	1:35pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Guam
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5078/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5038/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)

D2884	10:45am	2:45pm	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
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SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

D2880	4:30pm	8:00pm	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
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SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)

D2882	11:00am	3:15pm	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26
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GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5039	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA5077	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA5079	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
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ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
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OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
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NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

DZ101	8:30am	2:00pm	3
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
DZ103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	9:10pm	2:30am+1	3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7
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GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
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MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily
PR110/UA5072	7:35am	5:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 7 via Guam
UA190/5079	10:00am	5:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	11:10pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN

D2885	4:45pm	12:20am+1	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
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HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

D2881	10:00pm	5:15am+1	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
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WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN

D2883	5:15pm	12:20am+1	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26
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FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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Anti-indigenous interests

Sen. Pete Reyes is endorsing Delegate Greg C. Sablan and perhaps even envies the past election victories of the delegate. Piggyback, join the bandwagon of Sablan? Whatever. I probably would do the same thing but with much caution this year. Delegate Kilili Sablan is in trouble, he knows it and is working hard on damage control by trying to distract public attention from the "mortal sin" he committed that has come out of the closet to haunt him. He is distracting the voting public again with his usual "I did that, I am doing this, and will be doing that."

Delegate Sablan would do everything but recall his immigration bill, cancel immigration bills that he sponsored, and co-sponsored all that will grant permanent residency and pathway to citizenship to over 14,000 alien/foreign laborers in the CNMI. He has deep allegiance to foreign labor groups in our islands and flatters himself as the messiah or the chosen one to bring political status salvation to the alien/foreign laborer population. Never mind that he disenfranchises and marginalizes his own indigenous people and permanently grant over 14,000 jobs on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to foreign laborers while granting them permanent residency and pathway to citizenship. After granting permanent residency in the CNMI and citizenship to alien/foreign laborers, Delegate Sablan along with Sen. Pete Reyes and other bleeding hearts will shift next to helping these new citizens and fresh rulers petition their families and countrymen to come to the CNMI and help take command and devour the CNMI forever.

Sen. Pete Reyes is an old horse in the Senate who share the values and political agenda of Delegate Sablan. He basically goes with the flow in the Senate in a tired and lazy mode,

much less to be desired performance as a lawmaker, endorsed the return of last election's rejected Rota lawmaker, another old horse colleague, Paul A. Manglona, and objected to the establishment of a Second Political Status Commission to evaluate our souring and failing relationship with the United States. Kudos to the majority of the House of Representatives who voted in favor supporting the measure. *Estague na kabajeros man maase nui y linala yan y futurun y Taotao Tano.*

One thing that both Delegate Sablan and Sen. Pete Reyes have in common is that both have anti-Chamorro and Carolinian interests: (1) No Second Political Status Commission to re-examine the violations, breach, distrust of our political relationship with the United States. They want Uncle Sam to do whatever it pleases with our lives and continue to treat us as colonial subjects; (2) both embrace foreign dominion of the CNMI people and bring us back 300 years of foreign domination. These lawmakers are doing grave injustice to the CNMI's people and must be recalled this November to their old jobs at the Election Commission (Greg Sablan) and Customs Office (Pete Reyes).

A Samoan chief once told a returning Samoan graduate and radical college student. He said, "You know, son, we sent you to college and also to represent our cultural identity and to come back a wise and contributing member to our community. We did not send you to become stupid, with a head bigger than your shoulders and whose loyalty is elsewhere. You are better off in the taro patch so you know where you came from."

Joseph A. Sablan
Kagman III, Saipan



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** **Kia Forte LX** retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.

A deliberate injury

To date, many retirees would approach me in our community for many of them are still wondering and asking questions what had happened to our NMI Retirement Fund? How did it get so messed up? Who messed it up? For the benefit of other retirees who may have the same questions and wondering, my answer was because of Public Law 15-15. You may read this public law at <http://www.cnmileg.gov.mp/documents/laws/public/15/PL15-015.pdf>.

There are other contributing factors caused by poor and self-serving decisions of our past and present elected leaders that deliberately injured the NMI Retirement Fund. But Public Law 15-15 was the major culprit that broke the "camel's back" sending the Fund to the Intensive Care Unit. Eulogio Inos and Betty Johnson decided to harvest the Fund's vital organs (cash assets) to create their own Frankenstein monster (Betty Johnson Settlement Fund) that spooked thousands of retirees to accept a 25-percent diminution of their pension.

The Legislature was advised by the Fund's money manager that even though the government is unable to remit 100 percent of its em-

ployer's contribution to the Fund, a less than 100 percent remittance consistently remitting to the Fund is much better than 0 percent remittance. The 15th Legislature decided not to follow the experts' advice and they went ahead to introduce House Bill 15-137, which eventually became Public Law 15-15. This public law authorized "the Commonwealth government to suspend the government obligations (employer contributions) owing to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund for the remainder of fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007 and for other purposes."

House Bill 15-137 was introduced on June 12, 2006, by former representatives Oscar M. Babauta, Justo S. Quitugua, Jesus SN. Lizama and incumbent Ray N. Yumul. The bill was passed on its first and final reading the same day, June 12, 2006. The Senate passed the bill on its final reading on June 15, 2006 (only three days after the House passed it). The then-governor Fitial signed and approved House Bill 15-137 on June 16, 2006 (only one day after the Senate passed it), which became P.L. 15-15. This is how negligent these elected leaders are

that resulted in the suffering of all retirees to date. A fast-tracked House bill!

Some of these legislators who were in the 15th Legislature will again be asking for our votes in the upcoming November 2014 general election. Oscar M. Babauta, Arnold I. Palacios, and Jude U. Hofschneider (incumbent lieutenant governor) have expressed their intention to run again as GOP Senate candidates. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (incumbent) and Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (incumbent) are again running as independent candidates for the House of Representatives. There are rumors circulating that Ray N. Yumul (incumbent senator) will be the running mate for Heinz Hofschneider.

The poor and self-serving decision of the above list of individuals who introduced House Bill 15-137 and voted on the bill gave the Fund no choice but to withdraw the required amount from its portfolio to meet its pension obligation to retirees. Withdrawing from the Fund's portfolio reduced the portfolio from a healthy \$400 million to a sickly \$130 million. If not for Public Law 15-15 and if the government contin-

ued to remit its employer's contribution to the Fund, retirees would not have been subjected to a 25-percent reduction in their pension.

Jesus I. Taisague
Koblerville, Saipan

No time?

Why did he not serve any time for his part? Did we forget what he did? Everyone else who did a crime—no matter what the crime was—had to serve their time. No matter what the crime was. And yet he, Mr. Ed Buckingham, who served as attorney general, did a crime and will not pay time. What is that? Meaning those who are at a higher ranking office could do any crime and still laugh it off because they aren't going to serve time because they're high ranking. The law was created equal. No higher and no lower.

Brenson John
Greenville, South Carolina

Women's Exhibit





Fiesta Resort & Spa Lobby
March 4-28, 2014
Monday-Friday
8am to 5pm



International Buffet





Every Mondays to Sunday
6:00pm to 9:30pm
Regular price: \$22.00 with 20% local discount
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Weekend Lobby Food Fair!

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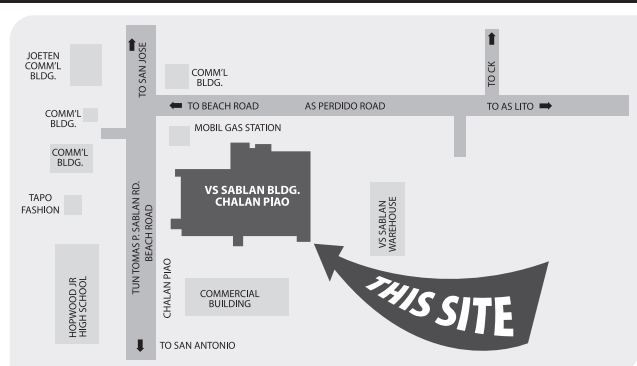


Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Removal of diesel fuel from stranded boat ends



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A team of federal and local contractors offload machine parts from a zodiac craft in Apra Harbor Feb. 19. Environmental and salvage agencies are working in collaboration to offload hazardous materials from the *Daiki Maru 7*, a Japanese commercial fishing vessel that ran aground off the shores of Guam on Feb. 13. **MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON**

APRA HARBOR, Guam—

The U.S. Navy, in partnership with other federal and local agencies, has removed diesel fuel to the greatest degree practical from the grounded Japanese commercial fishing vessel *Daiki Maru 7* in outer Apra Har-



MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS TIMOTHY WILSON

Members of a salvage team that was hired to assist cleanup efforts of the *Daiki Maru 7* prepare to pump diesel from the vessel in Apra Harbor on Feb. 19. The commercial fishing vessel ran aground Feb. 13 and recovery operations have been conducted to remove hazardous materials from the boat.

bor on Feb. 20.

A team of environmental and salvage specialists pumped approximately 700 gallons of diesel fuel yesterday and 1,500 gallons Wednesday from the vessel and into onshore containers, which were staged in an environmentally safe containment zone for later disposal. Personnel also removed two marine batteries and two propane tanks from the boat on Feb. 19.

"None of us can predict something like this will happen on a Navy base but when it does it's nice to know we

can reach out to federal and local agencies and be up and running so quickly to manage such a complex situation," said Capt. Mike Ward, U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer. "It's a great testament to the teamwork and spirit that everyone has on the unified command to get this situation remedied as quickly and as safely as possible."

All recoverable hazardous materials have been removed from the vessel. This allows the team to transition to the salvage phase of the operation.

Contract salvage teams are assessing the vessel and formulating plans for breaking down and removing the vessel from its current location.

The Navy and all partners in the unified command are taking all the necessary steps to address the situation and ensure the protection of the environment. The unified command maintains a top priority of assessing, planning for, and removing hazardous materials from the vessel to mitigate damage to the environment.

The unified command consists of representatives of Naval Base Guam, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, and the responsible party. Other agencies that have been involved in all aspects of planning from the standup include Joint Region Marianas operations department, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas environmental personnel, NOAA, Guam Fish and Wildlife Service, Cabras Marine, and Osroco. *(Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)*

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 2347859
Fax: (670) 2345749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,
vs.
FRANKLIN JOEL
R. CRUZ,
Defendant.

Civil Action
No. 11-0169

**NOTICE OF
HEARING ON
PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR
DEFAULT
JUDGMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **February 24, 2014, at 1:30 pm**, a hearing will be held before Judge **Teresa Kim-Tenorio** on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of January, 2014.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-COTA/FTA-061

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 18, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT
FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) FARE CARD SYSTEM UNITS FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"**

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER, **FEBRUARY 21, 2014** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR, NMI RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING, ISA DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

James Ada named president of NMI Republican Party

The CNMI Republican Party is pleased to announce that the GOP board of directors met on Feb. 19, 2014 and unanimously appointed James Aldan Ada as president to fill the position vacated by Jack P. Villagomez.

Villagomez resigned late last year after successfully presiding over the restructuring of the Republican Party and its merger with the recently dissolved Cov-

enant Party.

In his opening remarks, Ada expressed his appreciation for the board's trust in him and conveyed to the board members and the public that the GOP office is operational and ready for business.

In his first order of business, Ada clarified the GOP's position on the selection of a candidate for the U.S. Delegate Office to

run against incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan. Despite recent media reports, the GOP has not selected a candidate nor has it ceased entertaining candidates for the delegate position. The GOP has publicly announced that the position of U.S. delegate, mayor, and representative are open to interested candidates and that letters of intent to file for candidacy remains open

until 4pm today.

The board further stated that the GOP during their Sept. 25, 2013, general membership meeting unanimously endorsed Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres as the official CNMI Republican Party candidates for governor and Lt. governor in the 2014 general election. The GOP Central Committee, per the GOP bylaws, also

unanimously endorsed Oscar M. Babauta and Arnold I. Palacios as its candidates for the Senate seats representing Saipan and the Northern Islands. Candidates from Tinian and Rota will be selected by their respective GOP precinct clubs.

Ada expressed his enthusiasm for this election season as the party continues to build a strong slate of Republican can-

didates, and he reminded interested party members that letters of intent to file for candidacy remains open until 4pm today.

The GOP wishes to thank the community for its continued support and cordially invites all members, family, friends, and supporters to join in the GOP Kick-Off Rally scheduled for Sunday, March 23, 2014, at the Susupe Basketball Courts. **(GOP)**

Xavier High School establishes ties with the Sophia University

CHUUK, FSM—Xavier High School in the Federated States of Micronesia has established a formal partnership with Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. The partnership, which will be formalized in a ceremony at Sophia University on April 3, 2014, provides for a qualified Xavier High School graduate to attend the noted Jesuit university on a full scholarship each academic year.

The unique partnership, the first of its kind for Sophia University in Oceania, is supported by the Tokyo-based Association For Promotion of International Cooperation, which, together with Sofia, will fund each Xavier High School students' four-year program of studies at the Japanese university in commemoration of APIC founder Nobuhiko Ushiba, the former State Minister and former Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. APIC is now headed by Peter Yoshiyasu Sato, former Japanese Ambassador to China.

"The entire Xavier High School community is thrilled with our relationship with Sophia University. Having the opportunity to send one of our best students, each year, to this outstanding Jesuit university will open new opportunities for our graduates, and

for their home nations," said Fr. Rich McAuliff, SJ, the director of Xavier High School.

McAuliff will travel to Tokyo in early April to sign a memorandum of understanding with Sophia University president Prof. Takashi Hayashita and APIC president Sato.

"I want to thank, in particular, former Ambassador Peter Sato and former Japan Ambassador to the FSM Shoji Sato, and the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, who were instrumental in establishing our partnership with Sophia University," McAuliff added.

Sophia University has actively pursued academic and student exchange activities with over 180 partner schools and other academic institutions in 40 countries around the world. Also, Sophia has entered into memorandums of understanding with local high schools in Indonesia, China and Korea, establishing an "overseas affiliated schools" system to accept international students and build a solid relationship with countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Xavier High School will be part of Sophia's "overseas affiliated schools" system.

Art contest aims to discourage trash dumping in storm drains

Earth Day and Environmental Awareness Month is this March and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is hosting a new art competition for amateur and professional artists.

The competition hopes to send a message—through art—to residents and tourists alike the importance of not dumping trash into storm drains, because storm water doesn't flow to sewer treatment plants. The trash eventually end up in the ocean where people swim and fish.

The artwork that will be submitted in the competition will be displayed as an eye-catching street art around the drainages in Garapan. These drains lead directly to coastal waters on Saipan.

Artworks must be one entry per contestant and only original artwork is allowed. Once winning entries have been selected, the artist is required to paint their winning image at an assigned storm drain.

Judging will be on how effec-

tively the art draws public attention, creativity, and uniqueness.

Monetary prizes will be awarded. Prizes are set at \$100 for first place, \$80 for second, and \$60 for third. Five other artworks will be considered honorable mention and will be rewarded \$50 each.

Applications must be submitted along with artwork. Applications can be found at the BECQ Office on Chalan Pale Arnold in Gualo Rai across from Subway.

Upon submitting the artwork, information is also required. For students, they must include name, school, grade, contact phone number, and email address. For the general public, they must include name, profession, contact phone number, and email.

Submissions will be accepted from March 1 to March 18 and no later than 4pm on the final day.

For questions, contact Olivia Tenorio at 664-8500 or visit BECQ office. **(Jayson Camacho)**

The Society of Jesus established Sophia University in 1913. Since then, the university has grown to one of Japan's premier universities. It conducts classes in Japanese and English. Sophia University has approximately 11,500 undergraduates,

1,200 graduate students and nearly 300 students are from nations other than Japan.

Xavier High School was developed by the New York Province of the Society of Jesus and welcomed its first class in 1952. It has graduated many of

the leaders of the Micronesian region, including presidents, legislators, attorneys, physicians, and business executives. It currently has 183 students in grades nine through twelve from six nations. Boys live in a dormitory at the Chuuk campus,

while girls live with host families in the community.

For more information on Xavier High School, visit www.xaviermicronesia.org. For information on Sophia University, visit http://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/e_top. **(PR)**

GOOD NEWS!

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2nd
Prize

**ROUND TRIP TICKET
FROM SAIPAN TO
SHANGHAI, CHINA**
(2 WINNERS)
WORTH \$1000.00/EA.

3rd
Prize

**ONE WEEK
ACCOMODATION AT
SUNSHINE GARDEN**
(2 WINNERS)
WORTH \$623.00/EA.

4th
Prize

SCOOTER
(2 WINNERS)
WORTH \$500.00/EA.

5th
Prize

**GIFT CERTIFICATE
FOR SUNSHINE
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WORTH \$200.00/EA.

Please see the table chart below on how to get your raffle ticket

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10 bet - 18 bet (\$0.05)	2 ticket	4 ticket	8 ticket
5 bet (\$0.25)	2 ticket	5 ticket	25 ticket
6 bet - 10 bet (\$0.25)	5 ticket	10 ticket	50 ticket
11 bet - 20 bet (\$0.25)	10 ticket	20 ticket	100 ticket
21 bet - 40 bet (\$1.00)	20 ticket	40 ticket	200 ticket

"ALL PRIZES CAN'T BE EXCHANGE INTO CASH"

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
January 13, 2014

To All Our Valued Customers:

We would like to extend our utmost gratitude to all our valued customers by giving good prizes on our raffle promo, but unfortunately, the Department of Finance informed us that the regulations specifically limits the prizes to merchandise valuing less than \$35,000.00 and prohibits cash prizes.

We would like to express our deepest apology regarding the changes we've had to make in order for our raffle promo to go on.

We hope for your understanding and continued support.

U-LUCK POKER MANAGEMENT

Tel: 233-0108 • Garapan next to Kimchi Cabana Karaoke

51 days left before raffle day! Raffle date: April 12, 2014

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Film screenings and discussions

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, in partnership with the Northern Marianas College, is hosting two film screenings and discussions in observance of Black History Month.

The first film screening

and discussion is today, Friday, Feb. 21, at 5pm at NMC, classroom D-1. The film that will be featured is *The Abolitionists*, a film about a small group of moral reformers in the 1830s who launched one of the most ambitious social move-

ments imaginable: the immediate emancipation of millions of African-Americans held in bondage, at a time when slavery was one of the most powerful economic and political forces in the United States. The film discussion will be facilitated by

Ambrose Bennett, a long-time educator in the CNMI.

The second film screening and discussion will be held next Friday, Feb. 28, at 6pm at NMC, classroom D-1. The film that will be featured is *The Loving Story*, a moving account of Richard and Mildred Loving, who were arrested in 1958 for violating Virginia's ban on interracial marriage. Their struggle cul-

minated in a landmark Supreme Court decision, *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) which overturned anti-miscegenation laws in the United States. The film will be facilitated by Barry Wicksman, a History instructor at NMC.

This event is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council in partnership with the Northern Marianas College and is part of the Council's Black

History Month initiative. Both films are made possible through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of its Bridging Cultures initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Humanities Council staff at 235-4785. (*NMI Humanities Council*)

House commends Larry Lee

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Northern Marianas College instructor Lawrence Allan "Larry" Lee was honored by the Legislature for his outstanding services and contributions to the Commonwealth, most especially his contribution to higher

education in the CNMI.

In a ceremony held at the Legislature this week, a House resolution was presented to Lee in the presence of his family, friends, and students.

House Resolution 18-23 was authored by Rep. Christopher D. Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan).

Lee, fondly known by friends

and colleagues as Larry, moved to Saipan in 1989 and has been an active member of the community for more than 24 years.

He first landed a job as environmental education specialist and public information officer for the Division of Fish & Wildlife.

In 1991, Lee became vice president of Sunset Advertising Group on Saipan. He became the president of Eleven Foto, Inc. in 1994 up to the present.

Lee enrolled in graduate degree courses in 1999 in educational leadership from the University of Guam. From 2000 to 2003, he was the marketing and public relations manager at NMC.

He then became the college's business and tourism instructor under NMC's Business Department while also serving as faculty adviser for the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and PROA Music Society.

Lee, from 2010 to 2013, served as NMC's faculty senate president and sat as an honorary member of the Board of Regents. Additionally, he also served other capacities in the college including business department chairperson and faculty senate vice president. He was also a former adjunct instructor for the Argosy University.

In 2011, Lee was awarded the NMC Presidential Award for Outstanding Faculty.

He is also an active volunteer of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, served the Marianas Visitors Authority board, and a ukulele instructor for hundreds of CNMI kids.

"Over the years, Lawrence Allan Lee has given generously of his time, energy, and abilities to assist NMC and has demonstrated a praiseworthy commitment to the success of the higher education system in the CNMI," reads the House resolution.

It also stated, "Lee has devel-

oped a reputation for his integrity, strength of character, resilience, selflessness, dedication, and is highly respected in the field of education."

Lee graduated with a bachelor's degree in Marine Biology from Oregon State University. He obtained his master's in Business Administration from National University in San Diego, California in 2004.

Prior to moving to the CNMI, he worked as a Marine Fisheries Extension agent for the U.S. Peace Corps in Palawan, Philippines. He was also a former recreational director for The Sea Ranch, Holiday Resorts Ltd. in Lantau Island in Hong Kong. Other previous jobs Lee held was as an English language instructor in Ube City, Yamaguchi-ken, Japan; a marketing manager and instructor for Sports Fishing Guide for Ocean Adventures in Hawaii; and a boat captain for Alaska Connections in Juneau, Alaska.

Service members urged to avail of COTA's services

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is urging veterans, service members, and military families to try out their Call-a-Ride Saipan transportation services.

"You served our country, now let us serve you! This is our way of saying thank you to America's military community for their tremendous service," said COTA in media release.

COTA's "One Call, One Click" initiative hopes to connect America's military community to the opportunities they deserve. The program was created by the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative to help veterans, service members, and military

families bridge the transportation gap. It assists communities to expand access to local transportation options.

COTA vehicles can drop off and pick up door-to-door or curb-to-curb, based on vehicle accessibility. It is available for transporting to health care, work, recreation, education, shopping, friends and family, and others.

COTA is open from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday. On Saturdays it is open from 9am to 4pm and closed on Sundays and holidays.

To contact COTA, call (670) 664-2682, text (670) 483-4344, or email COTA@gov.mp. (*Jayson Camacho*)

Invitation for artists who want to take part in the Women's Exhibit

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is preparing for its Annual Women's Exhibit, which recognizes the roles of women artists in the community.

The council is inviting all female registered and non-registered artists to join and participate in this exhibit, which will be at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan lobby for the whole month of March.

"I would like to encourage all registered and non-registered artists to take advantage of this opportunity to showcase and sell your art work," said Fe McMahon, the arts

council's coordinator.

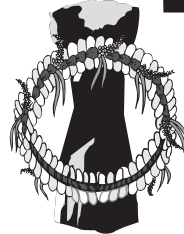
All artwork will be monitored by McMahon for the whole month of the exhibit. Artists are welcome to come and sell their artwork but they are not required to be present every day.

The Women's exhibit will run from March 4 up to March 28. It will be open from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

For more information on how you can join or become a registered artist, contact or visit McMahon at the Arts Council office on Capital Hill next to the Post Office or call her at 322-9983 or 483-1226. (*PR*)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

The People's Party: Rebuilding the Commonwealth



An Invitation from the People's Party

All citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands are openly invited to a gathering of friendship, partnership, fellowship and kinship by the DEMOCRATIC PARTY of the Northern Marianas-The People's Party, to its General Membership Meeting on Saturday, February 22, 2014, at Garapan Central Park, beginning at 4:00 P.M.

Highlighting the agenda for this meeting includes the election of members into the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas' Central Executive Committee CEC. Following the official INDUCTION of Central Executive Committee CEC members, election of party officers will take place thereafter. Gracing the afternoon event are musical entertainment and performances by local bands and singers plus food and refreshment.

IF YOU ARE:

- A retiree suffering from 25% pension cut and 40% increase in insurance premium payment;
- An ordinary citizen emotionally and financially exhausted living from crisis-to-crisis;
- A senior citizen struggling hard to make co-payments on prescription medications due to continued economic hard times;
- A father of 4 children and active government employee who no longer have future retirement security;
- A local US citizen unable to find employment that pays livable wages;
- A typical family member forced to choose making payment on CUC inflated power rate or risk disconnection of services;
- A land owner waiting for years and unable to receive just payment for the use of his/her property by the government;
- A Northern Marianas Descent frustrated by an administration that aided and abated in refusing to remit millions of dollars in collected lease proceeds to MPLT;
- A victim of political retribution;
- A government employee fearful of employment dislocation;
- A local business owner who is forced to shut down a lifetime family business operations due to maltreatment and indifferent government policies;
- An aging Grandma already lost hope on those tested leaders who promised BETTER TIMES but only managed to show increases in crimes;
- A potential business operator greatly discouraged by blatant "Special Treatment Policy" practices;
- Newly wed local couples looking forward to raising a family on island but was greatly disappointed to witness deep mistrust in government officials;
- Middle-age college degree holder who came back home to help in the development of the CNMI only to be met with impenetrable political barriers;
- A faithful voter exercising his/her duty voting for his/her representatives but was dismayed by their arrogance and lacked of empathy;
- A single mother of twin girls desperately seeking dignified relief from the constant stress of financial uncertainty;
- A proud Chamolinian who is just fed up of more than 15 years of life full of misery and despair without foreseeable hope for a descent livelihood;
- A disappointed and disenfranchised Covenant or Republican member; or
- An independent minded member of our community just wishing to be part of a dynamic and inclusive political organization, the Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas extends an embracing welcome, welcome back, and welcome home to your permanent political membership, where membership is not based on the power of your pocket-book, but rather on the strength of your commitment and dedication to make our Commonwealth a secured and proud home for all of our people.

Please come and join in a new movement of political empowerment based on what you can do for your community rather than what your community can do for you. We owe this loyalty to ourselves, our children, and our future. The Democratic Party believes in maximizing the legal and political assets of the Covenant and Constitution to invest in the limitless potential of our citizens.

"THE PEOPLE'S PARTY: REBUILDING THE COMMONWEALTH"

Long sworn in as Tinian's CHCC board representative

In front of guests and officials, acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider swore in Tinian businessman Phillip Mendiola-Long to serve as the Tinian representative for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees.

Immediately following the swearing-in, Long pledged to work together with fellow trustees to improve the quality of healthcare throughout the Commonwealth.

Witnessing the ceremony yesterday afternoon in the Of-

fice of the Governor's conference room were friends and CHCC officials, including interim corporation CEO Esther Muña and corporation board of trustees chair Joaquin Torres. *(Office of the Lieutenant Governor)*



MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider presents to the family of the late Jesus Sablan Deleon Guerrero a plaque recognizing his services to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during a memorial tribute at the House of Representatives chamber. Accepting the plaque on behalf of the family was Deleon Guerrero's widow, Victoria Alepuyo Deleon Guerrero, and son, Jesse.



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider, left, administers the oath of office to Phillip Mendiola-Long yesterday afternoon in the Office of the Governor's conference room, as the Tinian member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s board of trustees.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

Lot No.: 003 D 16	ADETFA ST. GARAPAN (Annex), SAIPAN	MINIMUM BID: \$83,700.00
Lot No.: 003 D 22	AEDTFA ST. GARAPAN (Annex), SAIPAN	MINIMUM BID: \$76,950.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2014, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be \$(please see above).
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2014.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate **\$2,466,520.00** in LIHTCs for the 2014 program year.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **\$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, June 30, 2014**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **July 15, 2014**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **July 29, 2014**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **August 2014** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the August 2014 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

Business

Facebook buying messaging app WhatsApp for \$19B

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is buying mobile messaging service WhatsApp for \$19 billion in cash and stock, by far the company’s largest acquisition and bigger than any that Google, Microsoft or Apple have ever done.

The world’s biggest social networking company said Wednesday that it is paying \$12 billion in Facebook stock and \$4 billion in cash for WhatsApp. In addition, the app’s founders and employees—55 in all—will be granted restricted stock worth \$3 billion that will vest over four years after the deal closes.

The deal translates to roughly 11 percent of Facebook’s market value. In comparison, Google’s biggest deal, Motorola Mobility, stood at \$12.5 billion, while Microsoft’s largest was Skype at \$8.5 billion. Apple, meanwhile, has never done a deal above \$1 billion.

The price stunned Gartner analyst Brian Blau. “I am not surprised they went after WhatsApp, but the amount is staggering,” he said.

Facebook likely prizes WhatsApp for its audience of teenagers and young adults who are increasingly using the service to engage in online conversations outside of Facebook, which has evolved into a more mainstream hangout inhabited by their parents, grandparents and even their bosses at work.

WhatsApp also has a broad global audience. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said the service “doesn’t get as much attention in the U.S. as it deserves because its community started off growing in Europe, India and Latin America. But WhatsApp is a very important and valuable worldwide communication network. In fact, WhatsApp is the only widely used app we’ve ever seen that has more engagement and a higher percent of people using it daily than Facebook itself.”

Blau said Facebook’s purchase is a bet on the future. “They know they have to expand their business lines. WhatsApp is in the business of collecting people’s conversations, so Facebook is going to get some great data,” he noted.

In that sense, the acquisition makes sense for 10-year-old Facebook as it looks to attract its next



AP
This Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 photo shows the WhatsApp and Facebook app icons on an iPhone in New York.

billion users while keeping its existing 1.23 billion members, including teenagers, interested. The company is developing a “multi-app” strategy, creating its own applications that exist outside of Facebook and acquiring others. It released a news reader app called Paper earlier this month, and has its own messaging app called Facebook Messenger.

“Facebook seems to be in acknowledgement that people are using a lot of different apps to communicate,” said eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson. “In order to continue to reach audiences, younger in particular, it needs to have a broader strategy...not put all its eggs in one basket.”

Tough winter creates menace: Ice from high-rises

NEW YORK (AP)—City dwellers facing one of the most brutal winters on record have been dealing with something far more dangerous than snow falling from the sky: ice tumbling from skyscrapers.

The West Side Highway and several streets around New York’s new 1 World Trade Center, the nation’s tallest building, were closed during Wednesday’s morning rush hours when wind-blown sheets of dagger-shaped ice hit the pavement near the 1,776-foot structure—shattering potentially deadly, fast-falling projectiles.

The ice attack sent frightened pedestrians running for cover.

The streets reopened by midafternoon.

Around the country, sidewalks around high-rises in cities big and small have been cordoned off with yellow caution tape because of falling icicles and rock-hard chunks of frozen snow, a situation that experts warn could get worse over the next few days as a thaw sets in over much of the country.

“The snow starts to melt and the liquid drips off and makes bigger and bigger icicles, or chunks of ice that break off skyscrapers,” said Joey Picca, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in New York, which has had 48.5 inches of snow since the start of the year, and several cycles of freeze and thaw.

“Be very, very aware of your surroundings,” he said. “If you see ice hanging from a building, find another route. Don’t walk under hanging ice.”

Some architects say newer, energy-efficient high-rises may actually be making the problem worse.

“They keep more heat inside, which means the outside is getting colder and that allows more snow and ice to form,” said engineer Roman Stangl, founder of the consulting firm Northern Microclimate in Cambridge, Ontario.

Stangl helps developers opt for shapes, slope angles and even colors—darker colors absorb more melting sunrays—to diminish ice formation. High-tech materials can be also be used, such as at Tokyo’s Skytree observation tower, where heaters were embedded in the glass to melt the ice.

Such options are not always possible in older cities with balconies, awnings and stone details.

Obama says working with neighbors to raise trade

TOLUCA, Mexico (AP)—President Barack Obama says he’s working with the leaders of Mexico and Canada to increase trade, including by investing in border crossings so goods can get to market faster.

Obama said the three countries want to take make better use of their competitive advantages and create more jobs.

Obama was speaking at a news conference to end a quick one-day summit with Mexico’s president and Canada’s prime minister held outside Mexico City. He planned to fly home from Mexico just nine hours after landing there.

President Barack Obama on Wednesday touted the shared “commitment to trade” between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, while trying to reassure America’s neighbors that he would seek to expand their economic alliances despite political resistance from his own Democratic Party.

“We have every incentive to make this work,” Obama said during remarks to North American business, civil society and education leaders.

Obama spoke alongside Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who joined him in the industrial center of Toluca for the one-day North American Leaders’ Summit. This year’s meeting coincides with the 20th year of the North American Free Trade Agreement among the three countries, a deal that has vastly expanded cross-border commerce in the region but which remains a contentious issue in the United States over its impact on jobs and on environmental protections.

Stores can see where you go by tracking your phone

WASHINGTON (AP)—Should shoppers turn off their smartphones when they hit the mall? Or does having them on lead to better sales or shorter lines at the cash register?

Retailers are using mobile-based technology to track shoppers’ movements at some malls and stores. The companies collecting the information say it’s anonymous, can’t be traced to a specific person and no one should worry about invasion of privacy. But consumer advocates aren’t convinced. It’s spying, they say, and shoppers should be informed their phones are being observed and then be able to choose whether to allow it.

The Federal Trade Commission held a workshop Wednesday on the issue, part of a series of privacy seminars looking at emerging technologies and the impact on consumers. FTC attorney Amanda Koulousias says the commission wants to better understand how companies are using phone-location technology, how robust privacy controls are and whether shoppers are notified in advance.

Here’s how the technology works:

- Your smartphone has a unique identifier code—a MAC address—for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. It’s a 12-character string of letters and numbers. Think of it like a Social Security or vehicle identification number, but this address is not linked to personal information, like your name, email address or phone number. The numbers and letters link only to a specific phone.
- When your smartphone is turned on, it sends out signals with that MAC address (for media access control) as it searches for Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Those signals can also be captured by sensors in stores that could tell a department store how often shoppers visit, how long they stay, whether they spend more time in the shoe department,

children’s clothing section or sporting goods, or whether they stop for the window display, take a pass and decide to move on.

Companies that provide “mobile location analytics” to retailers, grocery stores, airports, and others say they capture the MAC addresses of shoppers’ phones but then scramble them into different sets of numbers and letters to conceal the original addresses—a process called hashing. This is how they make the data they collect anonymous, they say.

The companies then analyze all the information those hashed numbers provide as shoppers move from store to store in a mall, or department to department in a store. Mall managers could learn which stores are popular and which ones aren’t. A retailer could learn how long the lines are at a certain cash register, how long people have to wait—or whether more people visit on “sale” days at a store.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID
ITB14-GOV-065

Roof Repair & Coating of the Ada Gymnasium & Guma Husitia - Judicial Complex

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair & Coating of the Ada Gymnasium & Guma Husitia - Judicial Complex

The project package will be available Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Governor’s CIP Administrator’s Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 7, 2014** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked “**ITB14-GOV-065**”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, March 21, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time March 21, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 21, 2014 and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **1:00 p.m. Saipan local time, March 28, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at **1:30 p.m. Saipan local time, on March 21, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Nation

Homeland Security warns airlines of new threat

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Homeland Security Department has warned airlines that terrorists could try to hide explosives in shoes. It’s the second time in less than three weeks that the government has issued a warning about possible attempts to smuggle explosives on a commercial jetliner.

Homeland Security said Wednesday it regularly shares relevant information with domestic and international partners, but it declined to discuss

specifics of a warning sent to airlines.

“Our security apparatus includes a number of measures, both seen and unseen, informed by the latest intelligence and as always DHS continues to adjust security measures to fit an ever evolving threat environment,” the department said in a statement.

A U.S. intelligence official told The Associated Press that DHS released a notice to airlines reiterating that liquids,

shoes and certain cosmetics were of concern, all of which are covered under existing Transportation Security Administration security policies.

The latest warning was focused on flights headed to the United States from abroad.

The official said “something caused DHS concern, but it’s a very low threshold to trigger a warning like this.” The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss

the issue publicly.

Earlier this month Homeland Security warned airlines with flights to Russia to be on

the lookout for explosive devices possibly hidden inside toothpaste. The Transportation Security Administration then

banned passengers from bringing any liquids in their carry-on luggage on nonstop flights from the U.S. to Russia. That warning became public just days before the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Soldier suspended for defending empty casket photo

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A second Wisconsin National Guard member has been suspended in an investigation stemming from a photograph showing soldiers clowning around by an empty flag-draped casket, a Guard spokesman said Wednesday.

Sgt. Luis Jimenez was suspended because of comments he posted on social media defending the photo, which was taken at a guard training facility, spokesman Maj. Paul Rickert said.

“He has been suspended from his duties as a funeral honors team member until the investigation is complete,” Rickert said.

Jimenez’ comments have since been taken down, but in a screen shot confirmed by Rickert he defended the woman who originally posted the photo.

“She isn’t disrespecting anyone,” Jimenez wrote of Spc. Terry Harrison. “... It’s actually a selfless commitment she has made. These practice sessions

are very long. It’s good to let loose a little. When your job constantly asked you to be serious. And no there’s no one in the casket.”

Jimenez was Harrison’s task leader, or supervisor, in the Madison, Wis.-based 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment. Harrison also was suspended.

No public telephone number for Jimenez could be found. Rickert said he would pass on a message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

ACROSS THE NATION

Court to control MLK Bible and Nobel Peace Prize

ATLANTA (AP)—Martin Luther King Jr.’s Bible and Nobel Peace Prize should be placed in a safe deposit box controlled by the court pending the outcome of a legal dispute over who owns the items, a judge said Wednesday. The dispute marks the latest in a string of legal battles between the siblings. The civil rights icon’s estate is controlled by his two sons, Martin Luther King III and Dexter King. Lawyers for the estate on Jan. 31 filed a complaint asking a judge to order that their sister, Bernice King, turn over the two prized items. After about two and half hours of arguments from lawyers for both sides, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney said he believes it is likely that the estate will prevail in the case. He said he would issue an order that both items be kept together in a safe deposit box in the name of the estate but

that the keys would remain with the court until the ownership dispute before him is settled.

Pa. couple sent to prison for 2nd prayer death

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A couple who believed in faith-healing were sentenced Wednesday to 3 1/2 to seven years in prison in the death of a second child who never saw a doctor despite being stricken with pneumonia. Herbert and Catherine Schaible defied a court order to get medical care for their children after their 2-year-old son, Kent, died in 2009. Instead, they tried to comfort and pray over 8-month-old Brandon last year as he, too, died of treatable pneumonia. “My religious beliefs are that you should pray, and not have to use medicine. But because it is against the law, then whatever sentence you give me, I will accept,” Catherine Schaible, 44, told the judge. She added that her beliefs have since changed.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements and includes concrete foundations, concrete slabs-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tile, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, door hardware, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, signage, flag poles, baggage conveyors, waiting room seating, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be two hundred seventy (270) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not “responsive and responsible”, their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the “Bidder’s Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause”, a “Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities”, and the “Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation”, as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier’s check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier’s Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 11, 2014



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

INVITATION TO BID
ITB14-GOV-018

Marpi Public Cemetery Lawn Care Service
Marpi, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschneider are soliciting sealed bids for the Marpi Public Cemetery Lawn Care Service, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at the Governor’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator’s Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference/site visit for this project on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 9:00AM ChST at the project site in Marpi, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST February 7, 2014 to Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions will be shared with other prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked “**ITB14-GOV-018, Marpi Public Cemetery Lawn Care Service**”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST February 24, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST February 24, 2014 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 24, 2014 and must be received no later than March 5, 2014 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST March 6, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 AM ChST February 24, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier’s check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Asia

Before Korean family reunions, fears of false hope



In this Feb. 14, 2014 photo, Kim Se-rin, 84, speaks during an interview at his house in Bucheon, South Korea. AP

BUCHEON, South Korea (AP)—Kim Se-rin is sure he'll recognize his sister when they reunite—if they reunite—in North Korea on Thursday, more than 63 years after war drove them apart. And he knows what he'll say.

"I will first hug her and tell her that I thank her for having lived so long," the 84-year-old retired Seoul city official said. "Then, I will ask her when our father and mom passed away and when our sister and brother died."

What Kim doesn't know is what he'll do if their reunion—one of hundreds planned Thursday through Tuesday between North and South Koreans—falls victim to the ever-volatile relations between the two countries. Kim, who has chronic heart problems, got sick after North Korea abruptly scrapped the reunions in September, and he hasn't slept well since.

"I think this will be my last chance," Kim said during an interview at his home in Bucheon, just west of Seoul, last week. "How much longer can I live?"

Kim and about 500 other South Koreans left on buses Thursday morning for the North's scenic Diamond Mountain resort to take part in meetings that will reunite relatives for the first time since the bloody Korean War ended with an armistice in 1953. More than 260 North Koreans are expected to take part. No reunions have been held since late 2010, and if these meetings take place, it will be a positive sign for inter-Korean relations and a tearful relief to families separated by the world's most heavily fortified border.

The rival nations struck a deal last week to go ahead with brief meetings of war-divided families, though there's wari-

ness in Seoul that Pyongyang could back out again. As they waited anxiously in the days leading up to the trip, many elderly Koreans had been unsure whether they would be able to see their long-lost relatives' faces before they die.

"I was really shocked last time when North Korea canceled the reunions. My health condition has worsened because of the stress from the cancellation," 85-year-old Lee Geun-su said Monday. He had planned to go to North Korea to see his younger sister, but on Wednesday, South Korea's Unification Ministry announced that he was too ill to go.

North Korea is pushing for better ties with South Korea, and has ratcheted down harsh rhetoric that swelled last spring with a torrent of threats to launch nuclear strikes against Seoul and Washington. Analysts say the North hopes better relations with Seoul will attract badly needed foreign investment and aid.

There is still a risk the reunions could be scrapped. The North earlier threatened to cancel the reunions due to upcoming annual military exercises between Seoul and Washington, which North Korea calls a rehearsal for invasion. Pyongyang also has previously cited critical South Korean news reports as a reason to distrust Seoul.

Millions of Korean families have been separated since the war. Both governments ban their citizens from visiting each other or even exchanging letters, phone calls and emails. During a previous period of inter-Korean rapprochement, about 22,000 Koreans have had brief reunions—18,000 in person and the others by video.

In 2000, South Korea created a computerized lottery system

for South Koreans hoping for reunions, and since then nearly 130,000 people, most in their 70s or older, have entered. Only about 70,000 are still alive.

Those selected for the aborted reunions in September get another chance this week. However, two of the South Koreans selected and three of North Koreans have died since then, according to South Korea's Red Cross, which is helping arrange the meetings along with its North Korean counterpart.

Time has already robbed Kim of the chance to reunite with his parents and two of the siblings he left behind on Dec. 4, 1950, six months after the Korean War broke out. Red Cross officials told him that only his 79-year-old sister Kim Yong Suk is still alive, though he also is expected to meet a son of his brother.

Now a frail, gray-haired octogenarian, Kim had taught Korean at a middle school in Hwangju, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Pyongyang, and his sister was among his students. She was smart and pretty with thick, bobbed hair, and Kim remembers a fellow teacher who jokingly asked to marry her after graduation.

"She resembles me. We will recognize each other when we reunite," he said, smiling.

Kim said he fled his homeland with two friends because they worked for an anti-communist organization and were afraid of being caught by the North Korean authorities. He said he left in such a rush that he couldn't even tell his family members about his departure, and he had no idea how permanent his decision would be.

"I thought I could have dropped by my home ... I didn't know (the separation) would last this long," Kim said.

World

Ukraine leader names new army chief after clashes

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's protest leaders and the president they aim to oust called a truce Wednesday, just hours after the military raised fears of a widespread crackdown with a vow to defeat "terrorists" responsible for seizing weapons and burning down buildings.

The two sides agreed to negotiate in an effort to end the violence that left at least 26 people dead and more than 400 injured on Tuesday. Protesters say the casualty toll is substantially higher.

The intense clashes between police and protesters led President Viktor Yanukovich to declare that the military would take part in a "national anti-terrorist operation." The parameters weren't specified, but the military's involvement and Yanukovich's appointment of a new military chief of staff fueled new worries.

As protective fires blazed around the tent camp in Kiev for a second night and protesters defending it showed no signs of yielding, Yanukovich met with top opposition leaders. A statement on his website said they had agreed on a truce and negotiations.

Vitali Klitschko, a leader of the protests that have sought to keep Ukraine open to Europe and out of a close alliance with

Russia, said Yanukovich assured them that police would not storm the protesters' encampment on Kiev's Independence Square, according to the Interfax news agency.

The brief statement on the president's website did not give details of what terms a truce would entail or how it would be implemented. Nor did it specify how the negotiations would be conducted or give an indication of how they would be different from previous meetings of the president and the opposition leaders.

Perhaps crucially, there was no immediate indication of whether radical elements among the protesters would observe the truce or be mollified by the prospect of negotiations.

Although the initial weeks of protests were determinedly peaceful, radicals helped drive an outburst of clashes with police in January in which at least three people died. And the day of violence on Tuesday—the worst in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Kiev—may have radicalized many more.

The two sides are locked in a battle over the identity of this nation of 46 million, whose loyalties are divided between Russia and the West. The pro-

tests began in late November after Yanukovich turned away from a long-anticipated deal for closer ties with the European Union.

After Yanukovich shelved the agreement with the EU, Russia announced a \$15 billion bailout for Ukraine, whose economy is in tatters.

Political and diplomatic maneuvering has continued, with both Moscow and the West eager to gain influence over this former Soviet republic. Three EU foreign ministers—from Germany, France and Poland—were heading to Kiev on Thursday to speak with both sides before an emergency EU meeting in Brussels to consider sanctions against those responsible for the recent violence in Ukraine.

President Barack Obama also stepped in to condemn the violence, warning Wednesday "there will be consequences" for Ukraine if it continues. The U.S. has raised the prospect of joining with the EU to impose sanctions against Ukraine.

On a visit to Mexico, Obama said the Ukrainian military should not step into a situation that civilians should resolve and added that the U.S. holds Ukraine's government primarily responsible for dealing with peaceful protesters appropriately.

Syria rebel commanders reject leadership shakeup

BEIRUT (AP)—The former leader of the Western-backed Syrian opposition's military wing on Wednesday rejected his recent dismissal, and along with more than a dozen senior insurgent commanders severed ties with the political opposition-in-exile, further fragmenting the notoriously divided rebel movement.

The statement from Gen. Salim Idris comes two days after the opposition Syrian National Coalition announced that Idris had been sacked as head of the Supreme Military Council and replaced by Brig. Gen. Abdul-Ilah al-Bashir—an experienced, moderate field commander from southern Syria. The move was widely seen as an attempt to restructure the military council and to persuade Western allies to boost their support for mainstream rebels trying to oust President Bashar Assad.

Moderate opposition fighters have been eclipsed over the past year by ultraconservative Islamic groups and extremist factions that have emerged as the most powerful brigades on the rebel side.

But the move also holds the potential to further fracture rebel ranks and sap what little

strength the military council currently has.

In a video posted online Wednesday, Idris said that after consulting with forces inside Syria, he and the 15 other signatories of the statement were breaking ties with the council and the opposition's political leadership.

"We stress that all that emanates from them does not concern us in any way," he said, reading from the statement.

Sitting at the head of a table and flanked by men dressed in fatigues, Idris said he has been asked to overhaul the rebel military leadership, and called on all rebel forces on the ground to rally under his command. He also accused some members of the political and military opposition of making decisions based on "individual and personal interests."

Most of the other men in the video could not be immediately identified, but among the statement's signatories were regional front commanders.

It was not clear what impact Idris' break with the council and the political opposition abroad would have, or whether the rift caused by the general's dismissal could be mended.

But the Coalition sought to

head off any dispute over the council's leadership, issuing a statement late Wednesday reaffirming al-Bashir's appointment. It also confirmed that al-Bashir was assuming his new duties immediately.

Still, Charles Lister, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Doha Center, described Idris' move as a potentially significant development.

"He appears to enjoy the support of a wide range of senior commanders whose zones of command cross Syria," Lister said by email. "Until the dust settles, this essentially leaves Syria with two military opposition councils,"—one under Idris and another al-Bashir.

And the longer the division continues, he said, "the more dangerous it could be for the long-term viability of the SMC."

Idris was named the head of the Supreme Military Council shortly after it was formed in late 2012. During his time in command, Idris, a secular-leaning moderate, was criticized by many in the opposition for being ineffective and lost the confidence of the U.S. and its allies, particularly after Islamic extremists seized a weapons depot from moderate rebels.

Off the Wall

Reindeers get fluorescent antlers



In this picture taken on Feb. 15, 2014 in Rovaniemi, Finland and provided by the Reindeer Herders' Association, a reindeer is seen with fluorescent antlers after a test in which Finnish herders dabbed it with fluorescent paint.

HELSINKI (AP)—Rudolph the reindeer is having a glittering antler makeover—the latest attempt to halt some of the thousands of road deaths of the roaming caribou in the wilds of Finland.

Anne Ollila of the Finnish Reindeer Herder's Association says the antlers of 20 reindeer have been painted with various fluorescent dyes to see how the animals react and whether the paints are resistant to the harsh Arctic climate.

If successful, animals with glittering antlers will be free to roam Lapland—a vast, deserted area in northern Finland where herders tend to some 200,000 reindeer.

Ollila says reflectors and reflective tape have proven unsuccessful as reindeer have torn them off—and road signs warning drivers of roaming reindeer often are stolen by tourists as souvenirs.

Science & Technology

Europe to build planet-hunting scope

BERLIN (AP)—The European Space Agency says it plans to launch a satellite to hunt for planets outside our solar system by 2024.

ESA says the mission will be called PLATO, short for Planetary Transits and Oscillations of stars.

The satellite will be equipped with 34 telescopes and cameras trained on 1 million nearby stars to search for tell-tale signs of orbiting planets.

Together with ground-based equipment PLATO will be able to determine

the mass and rough composition of so-called exoplanets.

ESA said in a statement Wednesday that the mission will focus on planets as big as Earth or bigger where surface water could exist. Water is a key requirement for life.

How safe are chip-based credit cards?

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: Can you clarify for me whether the new chip-based credit cards that will become available in 2015 are the same as RFID (radio frequency identification) cards? It's my understanding that RFID cards are vulnerable to being illegally scanned unless they're protected by some type of blocking products.—Ed Krautsdorfer, Denham Springs, La.

ANSWER: Credit cards have become a major consumer concern since the 2013 Target Corp. security breach, which compromised 40 million credit and debit cards and the personal information of 70 million people. Chip-based cards, which would be difficult for thieves to reproduce, are being offered as a safer alternative to today's magnetic stripe credit cards, which are easy to copy.

There are two types of chip-based cards, and only one of them uses RFID. But each has some drawbacks.

One type requires that the card

physically touch a card reader in order to transfer data. This is called a "chip and PIN card" because you must both swipe the card and enter a PIN, or personal identification number.

Banks favor these cards, which are also called EMV cards because they were a joint development effort of Europay, MasterCard and Visa. A

few banks offer these cards now but the deadline for retailers to accept them isn't until October 2015.

The bad news is that the phase-in period for converting to EMV card readers

is likely to extend well beyond October 2015 and, in the interim, magnetic stripe card readers will continue to be used. As a result, the early EMV cards are likely to have both a chip and a magnetic stripe that contain the same information. This will make the cards just as vulnerable to being copied as stripe-only cards are today.

One type requires that the card



The other type of chip-based card doesn't require physical contact between the card and the card reader; it uses RFID radio technology to send data short distances through the air. These cards are available today, and have names such as Visa PayWave, MasterCard PayPass, American Express ExpressPay and Discover Zip.

The problem with RFID cards is that, unless the card is inside a protective covering, they can be read from a few inches away by someone who has a portable RFID reader. Metal foil is said to be the best protective coating to prevent data theft. Some wallets are now sold with protective pockets for RFID credit cards, although the degree of protection provided is not uniform.

RFID proponents say that if the cards use security codes that automatically change after every use, information stolen from a card could only be used for one fraudulent transaction. But there continue to be security questions about RFID cards.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Cleaning woman in Italy throws out artworks

ROME (AP)—A cleaning woman in southern Italy has unwittingly thrown away contemporary artworks that were supposed to be part of an exhibition. Lorenzo Roca, head of the cleaning company, said the woman "was just doing her job" when she thought two artworks were part of trash left behind by those setting up for the show that opened Wednesday in Bari. Show organizers said one of the works she gave to a city sanitation crew before dawn included pieces of cookies, which were scattered on the floor, as part of an artistic arrangement. Roca said the cleaning company would use its insurance coverage to pay for the trashed art works, whose value was estimated at 10,000 euros (\$13,700).

Burglary suspect arrested after leaving wallet

DALLAS (AP)—Authorities say a teenager who burglarized a Dallas police officer's apartment, taking his service weapon and ammunition, was apprehended after he lost his wallet as he fled. Police reports say two witnesses chased 18-year-old Adrian Jimmerson when he was seen Feb. 13 carrying a pillowcase full of items. The suspect dropped the pillowcase as he jumped a fence, but his pants ripped and his wallet fell to the ground. A school identification card also was found. Jimmerson was arrested the next day. He was being held Tuesday at the Dallas County jail on a charge of burglary of a habitation, with a bond of \$10,000.

Wisconsin rubber duck bill racing to finish line

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—The "Ducktona 500" in Sheboygan Falls and the "Lucky Ducky Derby" in Menomonee Falls may soon be able to operate in Wisconsin without fear of breaking the law. The state Senate on Tuesday passed a bill legalizing rubber duck races in Wisconsin. The measure cleared

the Assembly last week. It now heads to Gov. Scott Walker for his signature. Nonprofit organizations commonly race the little plastic ducks, with numbers on the bottom, as fundraisers. But the legality of those races was called into question after the state Justice Department warned the village of Mishicot that its annual rubber duck race amounts to illegal gambling.

Albino alligators make snappy, happy home in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Two incredibly rare albino alligators have arrived at their new French home—a Paris aquarium—after being bought from a reptile collector in Florida. Thursday's snappy new reptiles, who are just over one year old, are part of an elite group of no more than 30 such alligators in the world. Michel Hignette, head of the Porte Doree aquarium, says aquariums save the lives of these reptiles since they cannot survive in the wild. Their recessive gene causes bright, white skin that burns in the sun and quickly attracts hungry predators. It's not clear yet how the two will hit it off as they grow up—as it's still too early to tell if they are male or female.

Families celebrate Olympics at backyard sled track

MASON, Mich. (AP)—Two Michigan families are celebrating the Olympics with a massive sled track they built into a backyard hill. WILX-TV reports the Baker and Hines families came up with the idea for a luge track in Mason, located southeast of Lansing. The course is about 200 feet long and includes a tunnel and a rendering of the Olympic rings. Doug Hines says they used two tractors with front-end loaders to create the course. He says it took about three days to build and a few hours to cover with ice. His wife, Amy Hines, says "it's a memory maker" for the kids. Family members and guests use sleds to speed down the curving course. Thad Baker says daily maintenance is done to ensure safety.



Kanoa Resort

Saipan

Our resort is looking for a dynamic candidate with a strong and all around experience in Sports and Recreation at a supervisory level. The Sports and Recreation Supervisor shall assist in leading, developing and implementing activities that appeal to our customers.

As a Sports and Recreations Supervisor, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Complete needs assessments to determine how often activities will be offered, how seasons will affect these activities and what space is available for participants.
- Research possible activity ideas, trying or sampling new activities and evaluating them as needed. Group activities may include sporting activities such as beach volleyball or beginner swimming lessons, games such as trivia, events such as karaoke nights or wine tastings, or activities such as volleyball and dancing lessons.
- Create an activity schedule that reflects the Resort's needs. Activities must vary to ensure the schedule appeals to as many guests as possible.
- Conceptualize activities which include but not limited to: kids club, sports activities, guest incentives, special packages, cultural activities, fitness center, corporate events and tournaments.
- Supervise other recreational staff members including life guards, S&R staff and other employees.
- Train other employees as necessary, introducing them to procedures such as pool safety or new activities as needed.
- May need to help update websites, produce announcements/newsletters or make calendars to highlight specific events.
- Additionally, these directors may send out invitations, publish brochures and update signage.
- Maintain safe work environment. Maintain and develop the Resort's existing customer markets.

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education:
- At least 3 years experience in sports and recreation, at supervisory capacity.
- Knowledge of hotel operations; departmental planning; conceptualizing, development and coordination of projects; guest relations; sports ethics/rules; first aid/CPR and life-saving techniques; computer operation; marketing/promotions; people management.
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends and holidays.

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Life & Style

Could 'Wolf' mark end of DiCaprio's Oscar drought?

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio is poking his head out of a poolside room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

It's afternoon, and a swarm of media outlets is lined up outside, chatting with Oscar contenders after the Academy Awards' annual luncheon for nominees. Nominated for lead actor for his role as an excess-obsessed stockbroker in "The Wolf of Wall Street," DiCaprio stands to gain plenty of attention if he's viewed, but he goes unseen.

Still, he can't conceal his curiosity. "What's going on out there?" he asks with childlike intrigue, lowering his brow. "Why are there only two people on pool floats?" Turns out, they're models hired to liven up the background of an entertainment show's feed.

"That's corny," DiCaprio says with a laugh. But surely the 39-year-old actor understands the allure of overdoing it.

Decadence is what fueled "Wolf," a film that's gained him two Oscar nominations for acting and producing. DiCaprio has been nominated for three other Academy Awards, starting with a supporting actor bid for playing a teen with autism in the 1993 drama, "What's Eating Gilbert Grape." He's been overlooked each time.

This could be his year. Is he frustrated he hasn't won?

"Here, I'll show you the card they gave me today" (at the luncheon), he says, rummaging

through his pockets after setting aside the electronic cigarette he says he puffs to "relieve the stress of life." He retrieves a small white card he calls "that little football chalk-up" listing his film stats. Leaning in, he points to the portion that reads: five nominations, zero wins. With a heavy chuckle he looks up and says, "Zip!"

With the card back in his pocket, DiCaprio adds: "It's quite interesting. People think I feel I'm overdue for something..." He stares at the ground for a moment, collecting his thoughts. "Anyone wants to be accepted by their peers, but the truth is every year is unique and everyone is just going to vote for who they think is worthy."

Nominated for lead actor Oscars for "The Aviator" and "Blood Diamond," DiCaprio has lost to Jamie Foxx and Forest Whitaker (he lost the best supporting actor statuette to Tommy Lee Jones). This year, he's up against Christian Bale, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Bruce Dern and Matthew McConaughey, who is considered DiCaprio's biggest threat for his portrayal of a rodeo-loving Texan with HIV in "Dallas Buyers Club."

"We haven't seen Leo and McConaughey paired off in any award show," says Tom O'Neil, editor of the awards prediction site goldderby.com. "The assumption is Leo can't do it."

But this wouldn't be because he lacks skill. DiCaprio, whose



In this Dec. 15, 2013 photo, American actor Leonardo DiCaprio poses for a portrait, in New York.

first big film role was opposite Robert De Niro in 1993's "This Boy's Life," has starred in a number of films that gained Oscar attention, including two best picture winners: "Titanic" and "The Departed." "Gangs of New York," "Catch Me if You Can," "Revolutionary Road," "Inception," "Django Unchained" and last year's "The Great Gatsby" have also earned Academy attention.

"It's as if the old men in the Academy look at someone like Leo and say, 'You have the money, the fame, the babes, but here's one thing you can't have,'" adds O'Neil. "We've seen a history of it. Paul Newman didn't win until he was past the age of 60. Often, if you are old or if you let yourself go to hell like Matthew McConaughey did in 'Dallas Buyers Club' by losing a lot of weight, the Academy awards you."

Many major Hollywood talents have endured Oscar snubs. Neither Alfred Hitchcock nor Stanley Kubrick ever received directing trophies. At the risk of gaining comparisons to the late actor Peter O'Toole, who was nominated eight times without a win, DiCaprio could go home empty-handed again.

"The thing about it is no matter what film he's in, even if you didn't like the movie, you leave the theater and go, 'That guy just never misses,'" says DiCaprio's "Wolf" co-star Jonah Hill, who is nominated for a best support-

ing actor Oscar. "Watching Leo work on 'Wolf,' I understand how brilliant he is at what he does. He didn't miss a single moment of that character."

He's been particularly dedicated to the Oscar campaign for "Wolf"—DiCaprio even appeared on "Saturday Night Live" with Hill. "Wolf" marks the actor's fifth collaboration with Martin Scorsese. It's a project he takes extreme pride in, largely because he was part of its development.

"The fact that I brought it to Scorsese and put the financing together ... all of these elements add a whole other level of responsibility," he says. That includes defending the racy material in the film, which has gained a bad rep for glorifying greed.

"I've never been a part of a film that had this sincere level of controversy around it," DiCaprio says. "But I want to have films out there that cater to an audience that I think is yearning for something that is a little more outlandish."

His hunch proved spot-on. "Wolf," costing \$100 million to make, has earned over \$230 million worldwide. "You make these movies, you work as hard as you possibly can, you put your life on hold and you hope for the best," adds the actor.

"I've had the same mentality ever since I got my first movie," he says. "I got my foot in this door and I am going to continue to jam it in there and grind."

Absent David Bowie steals show at Brit Awards

LONDON (AP)—David Bowie stole the show at Wednesday's Brit music awards without even showing up, while Arctic Monkeys took home two big trophies at British music's leading prize night.

The 67-year-old Bowie, who is enjoying a renaissance with his first album in a decade, "The Next Day," was named British male artist of the year.

The trophy was accepted by supermodel Kate Moss. She was sent, presenter Noel Gallagher joked, as New York-based Bowie's "representative on Earth."

Moss wore one of Bowie's Ziggy Stardust outfits from the 1970s as she read out an enigmatic speech from the musician. Bowie quoted a Japanese myth and declared himself "completely delighted" to be named best male—"But I am, aren't I, Kate?" The speech ended with an appeal to Scots not to vote for independence in a referendum later this year: "Scotland, please stay with us."

The evening's biggest winner was rough-edged northern English rock band Arctic Monkeys, who won album of the year for "AM" and were named best

British group for a third time.

"There's the 15 quid we put on One Direction to win down the drain," lead singer Alex Turner quipped.

The band was one of the few winners not to dutifully thank their label and management.

"Rock 'n' roll," Turner said, accepting the album prize. "It seems like it has faded away sometimes, but it will never die."

Katy Perry, Pharrell Williams, Bruno Mars, Nile Rodgers, Arctic Monkeys and Beyonce were among the performers during the flashy Brits ceremony at London's O2 Arena. Music legend Prince—who is in the midst of a string of British dates—showed up with his band 3RDEYEGIRL to present the award for best British female artist to singer Ellie Goulding.

Bowie aside, the evening was a polished if predictable showcase of British musical talent which spread its prizes widely.

Rock band Bastille was named British breakthrough act, and British single of the year went to drum 'n' bass quartet Rudimental for "Waiting All Night."

One Direction took the Global Success prize, rewarding

worldwide sales, for a second year running. That's no surprise—the category was introduced last year to recognize the boy band's world domination.

Bruno Mars took the trophy for international male solo artist of the year. The 17-year-old New Zealand singer Lorde was named best international female artist.

Lorde—who also performed her Grammy Award-winning anthem "Royals" with an assist from British electronic duo Disclosure—said winning awards was so new to her that "my brain still feels like it's exploding every time it happens."

French electronic tricksters Daft Punk were named international group. The prize was accepted by disco maestro Nile Rodgers, who worked on their global hit "Get Lucky."

Rodgers joked that some people had said "those old-school guys can't make a funky record. I guess they were wrong."

Britain's music industry sees the Brits—the U.K. equivalent of the Grammys—as an important stage for new talent. Wednesday's awards bash, hosted by actor-comedian James Corden,

featured a slew of rising British contenders—among them Bastille, Disclosure, Rudimental and Goulding—after a couple of years in which Adele and One Direction ruled the roost.

The Brits had a longtime reputation for haphazard presentation, but have smartened up in recent years as a showcase for British sound and style, with a sprinkling of big-name international acts.

This year's slim black-and-white Brits statuette was designed by royal-favorite hat-maker Philip Treacy, the latest in a line of U.K. designers drafted in to tweak the awards' image.

Performances by Arctic Monkeys, accompanied by giant flaming letters "AM"; Katy Perry, riffing on Cleopatra during a rendition of "Dark Horse"; and Bruno Mars singing smooth hit "Treasure" were slick if a tad tame.

The highlights included Beyonce in a sparkling green gown as bright as her star wattage, effortlessly in a class of her own as she performed "XO."

And the show closed with a funk-fest from Rodgers and Pharrell Williams, a couple of

WINNERS LIST

Winners of the 2014 Brit Awards, announced Wednesday:

- **British Female**—Ellie Goulding
- **International Female**—Lorde
- **British Male**—David Bowie
- **International Male**—Bruno Mars
- **British Group**—Arctic Monkeys
- **British Breakthrough Act**—Bastille
- **Critics' Choice**—Sam Smith
- **Global Success**—One Direction
- **British Single**—Rudimental, "Waiting All Night"
- **International Group**—Daft Punk
- **British Album**—Arctic Monkeys, "AM"
- **British Video**—One Direction, "Best Song Ever."
- **British Producer Of The Year**—Flood & Alan Moulder

masters of production and performance.

Most winners are chosen by a ballot of some 1,000 music-industry members, with several selected by public vote—including a best video category decided by social-media ballot during the broadcast. It went, unsurprisingly, to One Direction.

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3 DAYS TO KILL [CC] (PG-13)
Fri. (4:05 PM) 7:00 PM 9:40 PM
Sat. (1:00 4:05) 7:00 9:40
Sun. (1:00 PM 4:05 PM) 7:00 PM
Mon. - Thu. (4:05 PM) 7:00 PM

NON-STOP [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Thu. 8:00 PM

POMPEII [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri. (4:35 PM) 10:00 PM
Sat. (1:30 PM) 10:00 PM
Sun. (1:30 PM)
Mon. - Thu. (4:35 PM)

SON OF GOD [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Thu. 10:00 PM

POMPEII 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri. 7:20 PM
Sat. - Sun. (4:35 PM) 7:20 PM
Mon. - Thu. 7:20 PM

WINTER'S TALE [CC,DV] (NR)
Fri. (4:20 PM) 7:30 PM 10:25 PM
Sat. (1:20 4:20) 7:30 10:25
Sun. (1:20 PM 4:20 PM) 7:30 PM
Mon. - Thu. (4:20 PM) 7:30 PM

ROBOCOP [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri. (4:30 PM) 7:10 PM 9:45 PM
Sat. (1:45 4:30) 7:10 9:45
Sun. (1:45 PM 4:30 PM) 7:10 PM
Mon. - Thu. (4:30 PM) 7:10 PM

LEGO [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri. 6:45 PM
Sat. - Sun. (1:10 PM) 6:45 PM
Mon. - Thu. 6:45 PM

LEGO 3D [CC,DV] (PG)
Fri. - Sat. (4:00 PM) 9:15 PM
Sun. - Thu. (4:00 PM)

VAMPIRE ACADEMY [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri. (4:45 PM) 7:15 PM 9:55 PM
Sat. (2:00 4:45) 7:15 9:55
Sun. (2:00 PM 4:45 PM) 7:15 PM
Mon. - Wed. (4:45 PM) 7:15 PM
Thu. (4:45 PM)

I, FRANKENSTEIN [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri. - Sat. (4:15 PM) 9:50 PM
Sun. - Thu. (4:15 PM)

RIDE ALONG [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri. 7:05 PM
Sat. - Sun. (1:25 PM) 7:05 PM
Mon. - Thu. 7:05 PM

Times For 02/21 - 02/27 www.REGmovies.com

Cee Lo Green:

I'm not returning to 'The Voice'

NEW YORK (AP)—Cee Lo Green says he's quitting as a coach on "The Voice."

The singer-songwriter-actor announced on Wednesday's "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" that he won't be coming back "at all."

He already was taking a break from the sixth season of the NBC talent competition, which begins airing Monday.

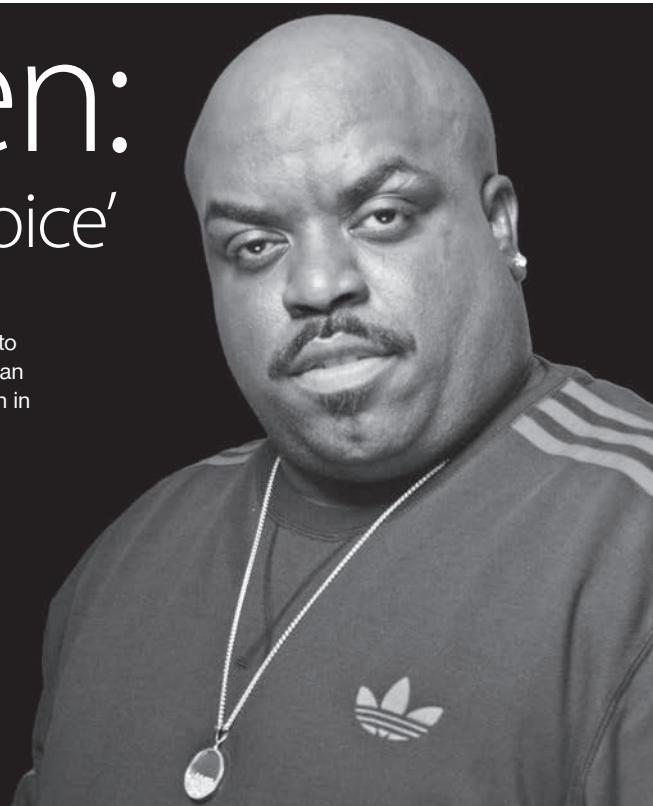
But Green told DeGeneres that he plans to continue his relationship with NBC, with which he has a development deal. NBC confirmed Green's departure from the show and expressed hopes to work with him on future projects.

Green was one of the original coaches when "The Voice" premiered in 2011. He appeared in seasons one through three, as well as season five.

Adam Levine, Blake Shelton, Usher and Shakira will serve as coaches for the upcoming "Voice" season.

This Oct. 19, 2012 file photo shows musician Cee Lo Green in New York.

AP



Hoffman will: Raise son in NYC, SF or Chicago

NEW YORK (AP)—Philip Seymour Hoffman built a career in Hollywood, but his will shows he thought childhood was best spent in New York City, Chicago or San Francisco.

The Oscar-winning actor's will was filed Wednesday, about two weeks after he was found dead in his Manhattan apartment of an apparent heroin overdose.

The will was signed in 2004, when only the eldest of Hoff-



Hoffman

man's three children had been born. It was Hoffman's "strong desire" that his son grow up in or near those cities—and in New York, specifically in Manhattan—or at least visit them twice or more per year, the will says.

"The purpose of this request is so that my son will be exposed to the culture, arts and architecture that such cities offer," Hoffman's will reads.

Papers filed with the will val-

ue Hoffman's estate simply at "\$500,000-plus." The estate is bequeathed largely to his long-time partner, Mimi O'Donnell, with a trust fund for their son, now nearly 11.

The accompanying papers also note the boy's two younger sisters, who are 7 and 5. The lawyer who filed the papers didn't immediately respond to phone and email messages Wednesday evening.

The filing seeks to fast-track early steps in the legal process, saying that's necessary so the estate can pay funeral and other

bills and get police permission to go into the apartment where Hoffman was found, a few blocks from the apartment where O'Donnell and the children live.

Medical examiners haven't ruled on what caused Hoffman's death, but he was found with a syringe in his arm and dozens of packets of heroin nearby. The 46-year-old star of "Capote" and "The Master" said in interviews last year that he had sought treatment for a heroin problem after 23 years of sobriety.

The will filings just say he "died suddenly."

Justin Timberlake postpones concert at MSG

NEW YORK (AP)—The first of Justin Timberlake's two concerts at Madison Square Garden has been postponed.

The singer posted on his Twitter feed Wednesday that the postponement is due to health reasons. The show originally scheduled for Wednesday has been rescheduled for Friday.

Timberlake apologized on Twitter and said, "It kills me to have to do this. I hope to see you all on Friday."

On its website, MSG says ticketholders can get a refund if they want, starting Thursday morning.

The Thursday night performance in Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience World Tour" is expected to take place as planned.

Ai Weiwei says US artist wrong to smash his vase

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei, who helped make his name smashing a valuable vase in the name of art, said Wednesday that he was miffed about another artist destroying one of his vases in Florida.

Maximo Caminero was charged with criminal mischief after destroying a vase valued at \$1 million that was part of Ai's exhibit at the Perez Art Museum Miami. The Florida artist said he smashed the vase Sunday to protest the institution's lack of displays of local artists.

Ai said Wednesday that he did not agree with Caminero's tactic.

"Damaging other people's property or disturbing a public program doesn't really support his cause," Ai said in an interview in Beijing.

The urn, dating back about 2,000 years to China's Han Dynasty, was one of 16 on display that Ai had dipped in bright indus-

trial paint, making them look like much more recently produced pots. The installation aims to "trigger questions about authenticity and the value and meaning of original artwork," according to the museum's website.

On a wall behind the vases are a series of large photographs of Ai dropping a Han Dynasty ceramic urn that smashed on the floor at his feet, one of his best-known works.

Against this backdrop, Caminero picked up one of the vases from the floor and, when told to put it down, smashed it on the floor, according to a police affidavit citing a security guard. Caminero told officers he broke the vase to protest the museum's lack of local works, according to the affidavit.

The Miami New Times quoted Caminero as saying it was a spontaneous protest after seeing the photos of Ai breaking the

ancient Chinese vase. "I saw it as a provocation by Weiwei to join him in an act of performance protest," he said.

Ai said the artist's apparent inspiration was "misleading."

"You cannot stand in front of a classical painting and kill somebody and say that you are inspired by" the artist, Ai said, adding that "this doesn't make any sense."

Caminero apologized Tuesday to The Miami Herald, saying he had no right to destroy someone else's art. He canceled a planned news conference and did not respond to telephone messages left by The Associated Press. A note on his studio door said his lawyer advised against commenting.

Ai said he thought the value of \$1 million mentioned on the Florida police affidavit was "exaggerated." He said that he wasn't involved with the insurance details, but that he thought the figure was "a very ridiculous number."

Woman hides at work to avoid spending time with in-laws

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful man for 17 years and we have two children. My life should be perfect, and it is—until it's time to visit my in-laws.

We don't see them more than a few times a year, but I've taken to pleading work as an excuse not to see them on holidays or special occasions if I can avoid it. I have even spent Christmas at home alone because I can't stand how verbally abusive my in-laws are.

My mother-in-law admits to being mean and nasty. She says she doesn't care because she "hates people." They are now pressuring my husband to move nearer to them. The thought makes me sick.

My life could have been so different if these relatives were nice, normal people. I wanted us to be friends. I'm a kind person, but I have never been good enough for them.

I would never dream of saying some of the things they have said to me. They're upper middle class and I'm "trash." I never thought when I married my husband that his family would enjoy making me miserable.

The Easter holidays are coming and I don't know what to do. I'm afraid one day the buildup of anger will make me explode. How can I make their verbal abuse stop? I'm sick of being the brunt of jokes and sarcastic comments.

"OUTLAW" IN ARIZONA

DEAR "OUTLAW": If your husband is "wonderful," why has he tolerated his parents' treating you this way for 17 years? He should have insisted from the beginning of your marriage that you be treated with respect. I can't believe the two of you would expose your children to this multiple times a year.

You can't "make" your in-laws stop their verbal abuse, but your husband might be able to if he locates his spine and puts his foot down. There should be no more talk of moving close to these toxic people, nor should there be any more visits to them until they either change their attitudes or learn to watch their mouths. If your husband feels he must go, then he should go alone, and you should stop making excuses for your absence.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is an alcoholic who attends AA meetings. Last night he forgot to sign out of his email and I saw he has been corresponding with a woman he met at the meetings. In her message she confided her problems finding a man. His reply was that she has been picking the wrong men, that he cares and that they need to talk face-to-face.

I wish I had never seen the email. Because of it, I can't eat or sleep, worrying about what might possibly be going on. I don't want to confront him because he has a nasty temper, yet I feel I must do something. But what?

LOST IN NOWHERE, MONTANA

DEAR LOST: Instead of "confronting" your husband, simply ask him if he has become this woman's AA sponsor. It might explain why she is confiding in him, and why he suggested they meet face-to-face to talk, which could be entirely innocent. Does he have a history of cheating on you?

If something is going on, it would be better for your emotional health to know what you are dealing with. And if your husband responds with verbal or physical abuse because of his "nasty temper," you should insist on marriage counseling or get out of there for your own safety.



Dear Abby

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Author James Patterson giving \$1M to bookstores

NEW YORK (AP)—Best-selling author James Patterson is giving away \$1 million of his own money to independent bookstores. On Wednesday, Patterson announced the first round of 55 stores to receive over \$267,000 in funds. The remaining \$750,000 will be given out in stages throughout the year. Patterson's publisher, Hachette Book Group, released a statement saying the author feels that bookstores are vital to communities and that they leave a lasting love of reading in children and adults. The bookstores can do whatever they want with the grants, which range from \$2,000 to \$15,000. Patterson's books have sold more than 300 million copies worldwide, making him among the world's most prolific and popular writers.

Elton John, Kanye among Bonnaroo headliners

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The eclectic trio of Elton John, Kanye West and Jack White will headline this summer's Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival. Organizers announced the lineup for the June 12-15 festival Wednesday night. As usual, it offers a bit of something for everyone. Sir Elton will be attending his first Bonnaroo, while West will be making his first return after one of the most memorable appearances in 2008. That year he made fans wait nearly two hours for his early morning set, which didn't start until 4:30 a.m. Other performers scheduled to appear in Manchester, Tenn., include Frank Ocean, Lionel Richie, Vampire Weekend, The Avett Brothers, Lauryn Hill, and Skrillex, who will host one of Bonnaroo's SuperJams. Tickets go on sale at noon Feb. 22 on the festival's website.

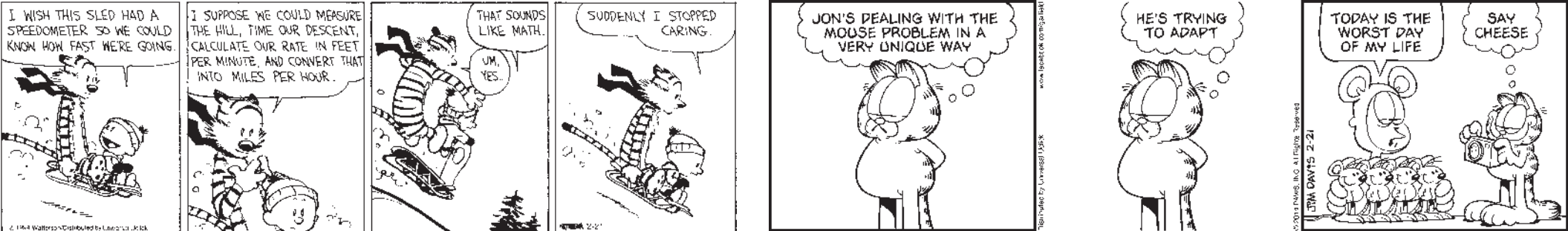
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

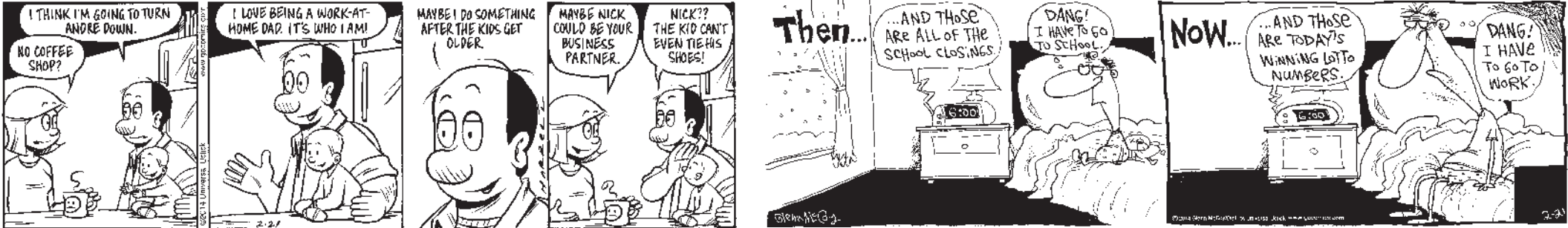


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Have a cow? 41 "— the ramparts ..."

6 Jazz style 9 Witty one

12 Where the elated walk

13 Mellow 14 Hasten

15 Island near Java

16 Old foot soldier

18 Vow

20 Part 21 — Zedong

23 Buck's mate

24 Semi-precious azure stone

25 Holly-wood clashers

27 Bachelor party VIP

29 Sarge, e.g.

31 Song

35 Sixth President

37 Ivy League school

DOWN

1 Barracks doctrine

2 Blackbird

3 Spoof

4 String instrument

5 Went wrong

6 Wisconsin critter

7 Shrek is one

8 Shell game item

9 Jubilant shout

10 Garlicky mayo

11 DNA bits

17 Music award

19 Accepted

21 Chaps

22 Earlier

24 Gehrig or Ferrigno

26 Frightens

28 Beginning

30 Praise in verse

32 Swell

33 Student at 37-Across

34 Roulette bet

36 Increases

38 Flops on stage

39 Old market-place

40 Kidney-related

42 Out of practice

45 1969 landing site

46 Rue the run

48 Kyoto cummerbund

50 Last (Abbr.)

51 After-noon social

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ellen Page, 27; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 35; William Baldwin, 51; Kelsey Grammer, 59.

Happy Birthday: Don't take anything for granted. Stick to what you know and opt to do things rather than ask for help. By taking the initiative and making your way on your own steam, you will gain respect and feel good about your accomplishments. There is plenty you can achieve if you take one step at a time. A good work ethic will pay off. Your numbers are 8, 17, 20, 27, 34, 37, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Anger and impulsive decisions will not bring good results. Stay calm and stick to the task you need to complete. Fix up your space at home and it will make you feel better. Wait until you have clearer vision before you react. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Explaining what you want to do will be futile, leading to opposition, misunderstandings and poor advice. Work diligently to complete what you are trying to accomplish before you offer to help others. An emotional matter can hurt your reputation. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take an honest approach to what you can and cannot offer at your workplace. Making a commitment and following through will help you advance. Be fair in your assessments as well as with contractual negotiations. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A couple of insightful occurrences will help you get ahead. Don't be afraid to do things differently. You will be praised for your skills, talents and taking whatever you do to the next

level. Listen to what others say, but follow your heart. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't show emotion and you will outsmart anyone who has ulterior motives. Focus on what you can do to enhance your surroundings at home or at work. Expect delays or problems while traveling, but embrace the opportunity to get to meet someone new. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Strive for perfection. Socializing will enhance your life and help put you in touch with people who are interested in what you have to offer. Be wary of someone who wants you to do all the work while he or she takes the glory. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make your position clear and listen to responses carefully. Good fortune can be yours if you handle a situation with integrity and intelligence. Be quick to follow through with any agreement you make. Show how valuable you really are. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your focus on your home and domestic life. Making critical changes that contribute to your health, wellness or financial growth will bring benefits that will reflect on your reputation and future goals. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keeping a secret may not be easy, but it will be necessary. Divulging personal information will lead to unusual questions. Put your efforts into your home and personal life. You can make someone happy by making a small change. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep the momentum flowing. What you accomplish now will help set the stage for important opportunities down the road. Use your energy wisely and share your good fortune with someone you love. Let past experiences lead to future success. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Express yourself through your actions. Take charge of your future by taking care of your personal, medical, legal or financial situation. Don't leave your future in someone else's hands. An old lesson will be valuable to you now. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Push your way to the top. Use your insight and originality to outshine anyone you do business with. Explaining your ideas and plans will drum up new possibilities with someone who has something important to contribute. Form an alliance. *****

Birthday Baby: You are inspiring, changeable and curious. You are a Good Samaritan.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/20

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET Solution: 9 letters

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O T E S E P A T R I C K Y L E
F I O T E R E S A E H S R I I
F D R C R C E W O L F I E H N
O E I P K I R N T R M H L K E
Z N I M A B L O C C W A D R R
A H U B O C R L C E I N N O D
I A E Y B A I O O S N O A Y S
L M M R M O N D K J T J H W K
G O A N M A R B J E E T C E Y
A N T E U A R O S A R N T N L
P E T G N A R G L N A U N I A
A Y H O D D O T O E M A X C R
L E E H A N N A I T M A R K R
Y L W N R I S K I N E W S Y Y

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Love has 42 points, 16 boards, Wolves beat Pacers



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kevin Love is used to carrying the beat-up Minnesota Timberwolves lately. This time, he finally had some help when he sat down to take a rest.

Love had 42 points and 16 rebounds, Ricky Rubio tied a franchise high with 17 assists, and the Timberwolves beat Paul George and the Indiana Pacers 104-91 on Wednesday night.

J.J. Barea scored 12 points off the bench as the Wolves took control early against the Eastern Conference leaders.

"This is one of my favorite wins of the season just because we played a very good team," Love said. "We did it without two key players and we fought hard."

George led Indiana with 35 points, but managed just two in the fourth quarter as the Pacers lost for the third time in five games, never once taking a lead.

"We just didn't have a whole lot of pop tonight," said David West, who scored four points and struggled guarding Love all night. "This is a game that I thought we would come out and play a little better than we did. We just didn't have it, just a step or two slow."

It was Love's eighth straight game with at least 25 points and 10 rebounds, the longest streak since Shaquille O'Neal accomplished the same feat Jan. 3-19, 2005. Love has an NBA-best 14 games with 30 points and 10 rebounds this season.

"I thought a lot of the shots he made was good defense," Pacers coach Frank Vogel said. "You have to give him credit. He is an extraordinary player and he played an extraordinary game tonight."

In their first game since the All-Star break as they try to make a late-season run and catch Golden State for the final playoff spot in the West, the Wolves came out running and led by 16 when Love came out for a rest 3 minutes into the second quarter.

Minnesota's reserves have been unable to hold their ground when Love goes to the bench recently, but they did fine on Wednesday. Barea, the subject of recent trade rumors, scored eight straight points during one stretch—including a circus shot on the fast break over C.J. Watson that increased Minnesota's lead to 20 with 6:48 left in the half.

"When he gets his rest, we need other people to step up," Barea said. "Tonight, we were able to do that."

Love scored 18 points in the third quarter, including a jumper from just inside the 3-point line with 0.8 seconds left that pushed the Wolves' lead back up to 10 after an Indiana run.

Minnesota, playing without injured starters Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin, led by as

many as 17 in the third quarter. However, with Love sitting to start the fourth, a jumper from Watson early in the quarter cut Indiana's deficit to five and gave the Pacers hope.

But again, Minnesota's reserves held on. Barea knocked down a jump shot in front of the Wolves bench to extend the lead back to 11 with 8:33 to play and the Wolves never looked back.

"Coach came to me and said he's going to give me a little bit of a rest," Love said. "He came to me during the timeout and said 'These guys are rolling.' I said 'Great, just keep them in as long as you need to.' Those guys just did a great job and really stepped up and took advantage of the opportunity tonight."

When Love returned, he reeled in a full-court pass from Rubio with his fingertips and slammed it home to give the Wolves a 98-84 lead.

Indiana went into the All-Star break stuck in a shooting slump, but shot 50 percent in a win over Atlanta on Tuesday.

The Pacers made just 8 of 22 shots to start Wednesday's game and finished at 40 percent.

"We will reflect on this," George said. "We really didn't want to lose and drop this game. But we have to move on. It's all about the next game."

George Hill finished with 13 points and Lance Stephenson had 10 despite missing his first six shots.

Spurs 111, Trail Blazers 109

In Portland, Ore., Patty Mills came off the bench to score 29 points, Marco Belinelli hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:34 remaining and San Antonio defeated Portland in a game between short-handed teams.

Mills scored 24 points during the second half to lead the Spurs, who rested starters Tim Duncan and Tony Parker.

Belinelli had 20 points and Manu Ginobili 16 for San Antonio, which also sat Kawhi Leonard with an injured right hand.

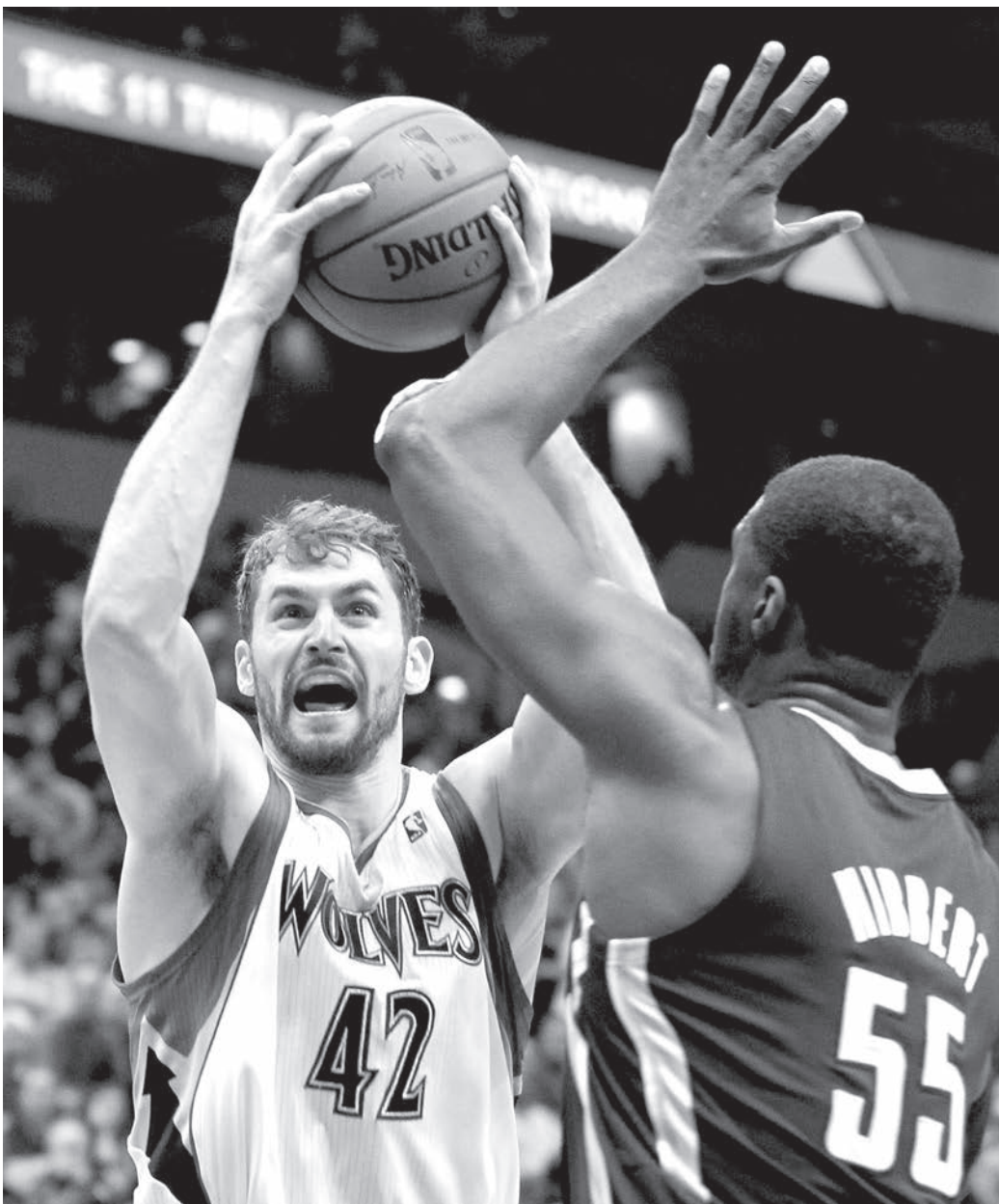
Damian Lillard scored 31 points, Mo Williams added 19 points and Wesley Matthews had 18 for Portland, which played without LaMarcus Aldridge. The Trail Blazers' leading scorer and rebounder is out with a groin injury.

Both teams had six players score in double figures.

Rockets 134, Lakers 108

In Los Angeles, Dwight Howard thoroughly enjoyed his visit to the team he left as a free agent after one tumultuous and contentious season, getting 20 points and 13 rebounds in a rout of Los Angeles that extended Houston's winning streak to eight.

The streak is Houston's longest since a franchise-record, 22-game run in 2007-08 under Rick Adelman. James Harden scored 11 of his 29 points in the final 1:25 of the third quarter



Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love (42) shoots over Indiana Pacers center Roy Hibbert during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 in Minneapolis.

and added 11 assists.

Wesley Johnson scored 24 points for Los Angeles, and Kendall Marshall had 20 points and 16 assists.

Bulls 94, Raptors 92

In Toronto, Carlos Boozer scored 20 points, D.J. Augustin had 19 against his former team and Chicago edged Toronto to win its fourth straight game.

Kirk Hinrich scored 19 points, Jimmy Butler had 16 and Taj Gibson fouled out with 10 as the Bulls won for the fifth time in six games and halted Toronto's winning streak at three. Joakim Noah had eight points and 13 assists for the Bulls.

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 32 points but had a couple key misses at the end. Kyle Lowry fouled out with 16 points and seven assists.

Augustin, waived by Toronto in December, hit two 3-pointers early in the third as Chicago took a 76-66 lead at 9:34.

Warriors 101, Kings 92

In Sacramento, Calif., David Lee had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Klay Thompson scored 18 points and Golden State held off Sacramento in a game both teams played short-handed.

Stephen Curry added 13 points and eight assists for the Warriors in the first game following the All-Star break for each team. Golden State is 3-0 against Sacramento this season.

With both centers out with in-

juries and a shorter roster from trades each team made earlier in the day, the depth of the Warriors was just too much for the Kings to overcome.

Isaiah Thomas had 26 points and seven assists, and Travis Outlaw scored 18 points for a Sacramento team that's headed for an eighth straight losing season.

Cavaliers 101, Magic 93

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 22 points and Cleveland won its sixth straight by beating Orlando.

Irving, chosen MVP of the NBA All-Star game Sunday, paced a balanced offense that extended the Cavaliers' longest winning streak since they won eight in a row in March 2010. That was LeBron James' final season in Cleveland.

Luol Deng scored 17 points, while Tyler Zeller and Tristan Thompson each added 16 for Cleveland.

Arron Affalo led Orlando with 23 points. The Magic have lost 14 consecutive road games and are an NBA-worst 3-25 away from home.

The Cavaliers built an 18-point lead in the first quarter that was trimmed to two early in the fourth.

Bobcats 116, Pistons 98

In Charlotte, N.C., Al Jefferson scored 29 points, Kemba Walker had 24 points and a career-high 16 assists, and Charlotte

defeated Detroit for the second straight night.

The win gave the Bobcats (25-30) a sweep of the three-game season series and a 2½-game lead over the Pistons in the race for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

It was Walker's best all-around game since returning from a sprained ankle.

Jefferson, who had 32 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists in Tuesday's win at Detroit, went 12 of 20 from the field and grabbed eight rebounds. He has scored at least 20 points in 16 of the last 18 games.

Brandon Jennings had 20 points for Detroit before being ejected with 1:13 left after picking up his second technical foul. The Pistons have lost nine of 14.

Nets 105, Jazz 99

In Salt Lake City, Joe Johnson scored 27 points, Andray Blatche had 25 and Brooklyn beat the Jazz for the Nets' first win in Utah since 2008.

Deron Williams added 19 points and seven assists. His 3-pointer with 2:11 remaining gave the Nets their largest lead of the game.

Brooklyn snapped a three-game road losing skid. The surging Nets have won five of their last seven overall.

Reserve guard Alec Burks led the Jazz with 23 points and Enes Kanter, starting in place of Der-

rick Favors (hip), had 18 points and 10 rebounds. But the Jazz wasted a 13-point, third-quarter lead and a chance to extend their winning streak to a season-best four games.

Wizards 114, Hawks 97

In Atlanta, John Wall scored 21 points and Washington recovered to beat reeling Atlanta after almost blowing a 20-point lead.

Paul Millsap had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Elton Brand, a fill-in starter at center, had 20 points and 11 boards for the Hawks, who have lost seven straight.

Trevor Ariza and Bradley Beal each scored 19 for the Wizards, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Washington ended an 11-game skid in Atlanta, winning for the first time since Jan. 11, 2008.

The Hawks, who trailed by 20 in the first half, made a third-quarter charge to twice cut the deficit to one.

Knicks 98, Pelicans 91

In New Orleans, Carmelo Anthony capped a 42-point performance with three clutch baskets in the last two minutes, and New York snapped a three-game skid with a victory over New Orleans.

A night after losing at Memphis, New York blew a 13-point, fourth-quarter lead before Anthony, coming off a 30-point outing in the All-Star game in the same arena Sunday, took over by hitting a pair of pull-up jumpers from the left side of the lane. He hit the first of them over Pelicans All-Star Anthony Davis, who blocked five shots in the game, and the second over Luke Babbitt.

J.R. Smith had 19 points and Tim Hardaway Jr. added 16 for New York, which lost Iman Shumpert to a sprained left knee in the third quarter. Tyson Chandler had 11 rebounds and a pair of blocks.

Eric Gordon scored 28 for the Pelicans, but was shut out in the fourth quarter. Davis had 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Suns 100, Celtics 94

In Phoenix, Markieff Morris scored 18 points to lead six Phoenix players in double figures against Boston.

Goran Dragic and Gerald Green added 17 points apiece for the Suns. Channing Frye scored 15, among them a crucial 3-pointer with 1:20 left.

Markieff's twin brother, Marcus, scored 10 of his 11 points in the second half, including a 32-footer at the third-quarter buzzer. P.J. Tucker had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Suns, who took the lead for good with a 17-0 second-half run, then used free throws to hold off the Celtics at the end.

Rajon Rondo had 18 points and 10 assists for the Celtics. Brandon Bass also scored 18 and Jeff Green added 17.

Dolphins fire offensive line coach and trainer



M I A M I
(AP)—The Miami Dolphins fired

offensive line coach Jim Turner and longtime head athletic trainer Kevin O'Neill on Wednesday for their roles in the team's bullying scandal.

The moves were the first punitive steps taken by the Dolphins since a report on the NFL's investigation of the case was released last week.

Investigators found that guard Richie Incognito and two teammates engaged in persistent harassment directed at tackle Jonathan Martin, an-

other offensive lineman and an assistant trainer. Martin left the team at midseason, and Incognito was suspended for the final eight games.

Turner didn't attempt to stop the harassment and even took part in some of the taunting of offensive lineman Andrew McDonald, the NFL report said. O'Neill expressed hostility toward the investigation and cut short an interview with those conducting it, according to the report.

O'Neill was fired shortly after he and other team officials arrived in Indianapolis for the league's annual scouting com-

bine. Turner didn't make the trip.

In a news release announcing the firings, Dolphins owner Stephen Ross said the behavior described in the report was "against the core values of our organization."

"After receiving the report, I conducted my own internal review of the facts to determine the appropriate steps for our organization," Ross said. "Jim Turner and Kevin O'Neill are good people who care a great deal about their profession and the players whom they serve, but both exhibited poor judgment at times, which led me to this conclusion."

Ross said he has been in contact with Martin and will meet soon with the two-year veteran. Martin has two seasons remaining on his contract with the Dolphins, but last month Ross said he didn't believe the tackle would play again for Miami. Incognito becomes a free agent this winter and will try to sign with another team.

Coach Joe Philbin made his first public comments since the report's release, saying the vulgar language and behavior outlined were disappointing and unacceptable, and adding that funda-

mental values of respect were violated.

"That ultimately rests on my shoulders, and I will be accountable moving forward for making sure that we emphasize a team-first culture of respect toward one another," Philbin said in a statement.

The report found no evidence that Philbin was aware of abusive conduct within the team.

Several people interviewed told investigators Turner gave McDonald a male sex doll as a gag gift around Christmas 2012. Turner told investigators he didn't remember the incident, but investigators

said they didn't believe him.

Martin told investigators O'Neill and other team employees saw an assistant trainer being humiliated and didn't intervene. O'Neill allegedly laughed at racial insults directed toward the assistant trainer.

O'Neill was the Dolphins' trainer for 18 years and has been in the NFL for 25 years. He and his Miami staff won national awards, including one last year from the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

Turner joined the Dolphins shortly after Philbin was hired as head coach two years ago.

US tops Czechs 5-2, will face Canada in semifinals



SOCHI, Russia
(AP)—The United States' hockey team is getting exactly what it wanted. Another

shot at Canada. Dustin Brown banged in a go-ahead goal late in the first period and the Americans went on to dominate the Czech Republic 5-2 Wednesday to earn a spot in the semifinals for the third time in four Olympics.

The U.S. went on to play in the gold-medal game in 2010 and 2002 and lost each time to the Canadians.

When the Americans' coach, Dan Bylsma, was asked to look

ahead to the matchup, he took a deep breath and paused for several seconds to gather his thoughts.

"We knew we were going to have some big games prior to this point in time, but you were looking forward to the possibility of this rematch," he said.

After a day off, the countries that share a long border in North America and generally friendly relations will meet on Friday for the chance to become hockey champions of the Sochi Games.

"It's a great opportunity," American forward Max Pacioretty said. "They're obviously the favorite coming into the

tournament, and we've opened up a lot of eyes with our play, but we have more in the tank to give and to show.

"We keep getting better every game and hopefully we'll keep getting better after this one."

While the Canadians had to hold off Latvia 2-1, the U.S. might be peaking at the right time to improve its chances to win Olympic hockey gold for the first time since the "Miracle on Ice," in 1980.

If the U.S. wins two more games, anyone who has been watching them play won't be surprised.

"This is a team that has put up a spectacular performance,"

Czech Republic coach Alois Hadamczik said.

And it wasn't the first time in Sochi.

The U.S. has been tested only once, in a 3-2, eight-round shootout against the host Russians in the preliminary round. The Americans crushed the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia by a combined score of 17-4.

The Americans shaped their roster with players who skate fast, hit hard, share the puck and score.

"It starts off the ice," Pacioretty said. "Everyone on this team realizes you have to play for the team and check

your ego at the door. All of us are the top players on our team back home and you come here and you're asked to play different roles.

"You see everyone in the room, willing to go to the dirty areas, block shots, make hits. It's nice to see when you see a guy like Patty Kane backchecking as hard as he can across the ice. It kind of puts things in perspective."

While the Czechs had to play for a second straight day because they needed to beat Slovakia in the qualification round just to reach the quarterfinals, the rested Americans were ready to roll after two days off.

The U.S. seemed to take advantage of having fresh legs,

beating the Czech Republic to loose pucks all night long.

"They had more energy," Czech goalie Ondrej Pavelec said. "It's not an excuse, it's just the way it is."

James van Riemsdyk gave the Americans a lead 1:39 into the game.

They lost it a few minutes later when one of their defenseman, Ryan McDonagh, tried to clear the puck away from the front of the crease and it went off the left skate of Ryan Suter and got past Jonathan Quick.

The Czechs were not as successful scoring on their own against Quick, who started ahead of 2010 silver-medal winning goaltender Ryan Miller and had 21 saves.







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Showing no emotion, Jeter says ‘time is right’



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Derek Jeter spoke for 25 minutes, 44 seconds and answered 26 questions about his decision to retire at the end of this season.

He said “it’s time,” “the right time” and “the time is now.” Twice more he added “the time is right.”

Jeter will be leaving the major leagues the way he entered: accessible, yet opaque; approachable, but distant.

So why is Jeter retiring? “He just said ‘it’s time,’ but he didn’t really say,” Yankees general manager Brian Cashman concluded after Jeter reported to spring training Wednesday for his 20th and final major league season.

One week earlier, the Yankees captain surprised and saddened teammates with his announcement, revealed by posting a 15-paragraph, 644-word statement on his Facebook page, one relatively few people were aware he even had.

“You can’t do this forever. I’d like to, but you can’t do it forever,” he said to a crowded room filled with Yankees management and players in addition to media.

Jeter, who turns 40 in June, was limited to 17 games last season, hitting .190 with one homer and seven RBIs after

breaking his left ankle in the 2012 AL championship series opener. While he returned last July, he wound up on the disabled list three more times because of leg ailments caused by a lack of strength after the ankle healed.

“It wasn’t fun because I wasn’t playing. I think it forced me to start thinking about, well, how long do I want to do this? And that’s how I came to my decision,” he said. “It just became a job last year.”

He sounded much like Joe DiMaggio, who left the Yankees in December 1951 saying, “when baseball is no longer fun, it’s no longer a game.”

Just two years ago, Jeter led the big leagues with 216 hits. And after an offseason of intensive workouts, Jeter is confident he will regain his productivity this year and be an everyday shortstop—only the fourth in big league history in the season they turned 40.

Wearing a navy Yankees pull-over and shorts, and a New York cap, he spoke directly and dispassionately, much like during every interview since he first reached the major leagues in 1995. He kept his arms crossed in front of him for much of the time, resting them on a table. He flashed those famous white teeth and smiled, displaying not a trace of melancholy.



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter smiles during a news conference Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, in Tampa, Fla. Jeter has announced he will retire at the end of the 2014 season.

“Trying to get me to cry?” he said after one question. “I have feelings. I’m not emotionally stunted. There’s feelings there, but I think I’ve just been pretty good at trying to hide my emotions throughout the years. I try to have the same demeanor each and every day.”

He’s been clear that he doesn’t reveal his deepest thoughts publicly, not in the tabloid, talk-radio and Twitter-driven tumult of the Big Apple.

“I know I haven’t really been as open with some of you guys as you would have liked me to be over the last 20 years, but that’s by design,” he said. “It doesn’t mean I don’t have those feelings. It’s just that’s the way

I felt as though I’d be able to make it this long in New York.”

He made the announcement on Facebook to circumvent “cut-and-paste” media, to get out his full message and to draw attention to his Turn 2 Foundation—a pun on middle infielders making double plays and on his uniform No. 2. He is a relic, the last of the single digits to wear a Yankees uniform, the last to be introduced before each at-bat by Bob Sheppard, the Yankee Stadium public address announcer from 1951-07. While Sheppard died in 2010, a recording is played when Jeter walks to home plate.

In the second half of his life, Jeter could have a future in

business or even baseball management—he’s earned enough to become an owner. He’s been among New York’s most eligible bachelors.

“There’s other things I want to do. I want to have a family. That’s important me,” he said, without a hint of what “other things” might entail.

Jorge Posada retired after the 2011 season, and Mariano Rivera spoke in the same pavilion behind the third base stands last March and said 2013 would be his final year. Andy Pettitte departed last fall, too, leaving Jeter as the last of the Core Four who helped New York win five World Series titles.

Owners Hal and Hank Steinbrenner and Jennifer Steinbrenner Swindal watched Jeter from the front row, manager Joe Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman in the second. Teammates, who said his decision shocked and saddened them, were in the rows after that.

Cashman called Jeter “a Secretariat, so to speak, that you can run in as many races as you can and win a lot.”

“Right now it’s kind of surreal and it’s strange to think of the Yankees without him in the lineup. But we’re not there yet,” said Hal Steinbrenner, the team’s managing general partner.

When he spoke with Jeter

hours before the Feb. 12 announcement, he didn’t lobby for a reconsideration.

“I respect when an individual makes a decision like this because I know how much time and thought they put into it. It’s not my place to second guess,” he said.

Jeter wouldn’t put an exact date on when he made up his mind.

“I wanted to make this announcement months ago. I really did. But people - I don’t want to say forced, but they advised me to take my time before I said it,” he said.

He kept getting asked about his future.

“Even walking down the street,” he said, “people ask because I missed last year: Are you playing this year? How much longer are you going to play? How many years to do you have? You get tired of hearing it.”

He enters his 20th big league season with a .312 average, 256 homers and 1,261 RBIs. Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson already has Tweeted “for those booking early” the 2020 induction ceremony is scheduled for July 26. For Jeter, the titles mean more than the statistics. And most of all, he treasures getting to wear the pinstripes.

BELING

From Page 32

their 7-5 victory in the opening set. The second-ranked pair eventually ousted the hard-fighting Tim Goodwin and Miyawaki after securing a 6-3 win in the second set.

Miyawaki and Goodwin later played in the battle for

third place and lost to Eda and Schorr (see scores).

Meanwhile, the Top 3 finishers in the junior singles, men’s open singles, and mixed-up doubles received painted coconuts during the annual tournament’s awards ceremony. Bud White, owner of tournament sponsor White Coconut Computer Services, led the awarding of the

unique “trophies.”

In the girls division, Erika Tuttle led the Top 3 in the U10 age group and was joined by runner-up Maria Gregoire and third finisher Hana Ojima, while sisters Conatsu and Coume Kaga and Jireh Warren made up the Top 3 in the U12. In the U14, champion Tania Tan was joined by Julia Ishikawa

and Ami Tsukagishi, while Mikayla Lopez ruled the U18 age group, followed Carol Lee and Negahr Rastguir.

In the co-ed U8, Jake Lee, Thea Minor, and Colim Ramsey were in the Top 3, while the boys U14 had Luther Lizama as the champion with Robbie Schorr and Tony Kim rounding out the Top 3. For the U12 age group, Ken

Song made it to the podium, along with Sean Lee and Gang Min Kim, while Rintaro Miyawaki led the Top 3 finishers in the U10, finishing ahead of Ji Min Woo and Daniel Kang.

In the lone adults singles contest, the men’s division, Beling took first place and was joined in the Top 3 by Jeff Race and Moris Villanueva.

TIGER

From Page 32

the three other runs were scored off a passed ball and errors from the D-9ers second baseman and catcher.

Shortstop Austin Lizama gave the D-9ers’ their first two runs, as his single at the bottom of the first drove Darren Pua and Wens Namelo home. That was the only time the D-9ers tasted the lead, 2-1, as they were held to one run in the next four innings before mounting a comeback with

a seven-run bottom of the sixth.

Namelo and Myron San Nicolas had RBI singles in the sixth inning, while K.J. Villagomez stole home. The four other runs were recorded off two wild pitches, a sacrifice out, and an error from Celis. With the D-9ers launching a rally, they brought the Tigers’ lead to 12, 10-12 and remained in contention in the seventh inning with both teams scoring only one run apiece.

However, the Tigers foiled the D-9ers’ comeback bid after shutting out the latter in the last

two innings and scoring a few more runs in the eighth inning. Holding a shaky 13-11 lead, the Tigers tucked on four more runs at the top of the eighth to gain more cushion. Tom Guerrero connected on an RBI double, while Mark Toves and Jake Santos hit RBI singles for the Tigers, who got their fourth run off a miscue from D-9ers catcher Wally Emul.

North Starz 15, Tigers 2

In last Friday’s game, the

North Starz booked its second straight win after dominating the Tigers.

The North Starz, which dropped its opener to the Yankees before earning a win against the D-9ers early this month, scored in the first four innings en route to an easy victory after only six and a half innings.

The Tigers went to the showers early, as they made it to the board only in the third inning, struggling against the North Starz’s three pitchers.

Javon Borja and McGarry Scaliem tallied the two runs for the Tigers, reaching home off Ian Rogolifoi’s single at the top of the third.

The Tigers countered with three runs in the third to keep their double-digit lead, 12-2. They maintained their safe distance after relief pitcher Mabel Ngirngemelas stranded a runner in the fourth inning and Monkeya closed out the last three innings with five strikeouts, while denying three runners a ride home.

TALavera

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Last month’s runner-up Raymond Zapanta topped Day 1 with his 812 pinfalls (226, 164, 223, and 199), but slid to third after Angeles showed up in the second day of the tournament and beat the former by 12 pinfalls. Angeles had a promising start with his 195 pinfalls and boosted his chances to take the February plum when he tallied 234 and a field-best 260 in the

next two games. However, the eventual runner-up collapsed in Game 4, recording only 135 pinfalls for a 206 average.

Twenty other bowlers joined the February King of the Lanes tournament. The list includes Simon Manacop (805), Lee Yong Woon (783), Paul Pangelinan (779), Ruselle Zapanta (751), Bernard Paraiso (748), Raul Dumapit (735), Lito Teodoro (732), Percy Omechelang (724), Ramir De Leon (695), M.J. Aldan (694),

Ronald Batac (692), Ariel Dumapit (691), Ador Dimaano (681), John Jimeno (681), Edward Baluyan (657), Kim Jae Yong (646), Raphael Zapanta (618), Randy Abreu (579), Ben Aizon (532), and Roger Vales (363).

Meanwhile, Kathy Mersai duplicated Talavera’s back-to-back wins this season.

After sharing the January honors with Diana Camacho, Mersai was alone at the top spot with her four-game total

of 733 pinfalls. She was one of the only two female bowlers to nail at least 700 pinfalls in last weekend’s competition.

Mersai posted 186 pinfalls in Game 1, slowed down a bit in Game 2 (167), but closed out strong with 184 and 196 for an average of 183.25 and 19-pinfall victory over Gina Sablan. Sablan was consistent with her game, registering 179, 174, 182, and 180 for an average of 168.50. Joining Sablan and Mersai in the Top

3 was reigning Queen of the Lanes Yho Villavicencio, who gathered 648 pinfalls (148, 163, 153, and 184) and averaged 162.

Other participants in the February Queen of the Lanes were Elena Soll (645), Gloria Omechelang (642), Tess Fabie (600), Carrie Camacho (595), Ron Cal (588), Diana Camacho (584), Gigi Zapanta (583), Lala Taitano (577), Diane Chong (573), and Myrna Santos (537).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	29	25	.537	—
Brooklyn	25	27	.481	3
New York	21	33	.389	8
Boston	19	36	.345	10½
Philadelphia	15	40	.273	14½
Southeast Division				
Miami	38	14	.731	—
Washington	26	28	.481	13
Atlanta	25	28	.472	13½
Charlotte	25	30	.455	14½
Orlando	16	40	.286	24
Central Division				
Indiana	41	13	.759	—
Chicago	28	25	.528	12½
Detroit	22	32	.407	19
Cleveland	22	33	.400	19½
Milwaukee	10	43	.189	30½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	40	15	.727	—
Houston	37	17	.685	2½
Dallas	32	23	.582	8
Memphis	30	23	.566	9
New Orleans	23	30	.434	16
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	43	12	.782	—
Portland	36	18	.667	6½
Minnesota	26	28	.481	16½
Denver	24	28	.462	17½
Utah	19	34	.358	23
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	37	19	.661	—
Phoenix	32	21	.604	3½
Golden State	32	22	.593	4
L.A. Lakers	18	36	.333	18
Sacramento	18	36	.333	18
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

Rockies, Falcons rout foes



The Rockies second baseman throws to first during their game against the Falcons early this month in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield. Both the Rockies and Falcons routed separate foes in last Monday's matches.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The IP&E Rockies and Falcons flirted with a no-hitter to earn lopsided victories over separate opponents in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League last Monday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The IP&E Rockies utilized pitchers Brandon Delos Reyes and Tyrese Camacho to limit the Jets to one hit and ease their way to a 21-7 victory in the curtain-raiser.

Delos Reyes started out for the IP&E Rockies and although the Jets scored six runs at the bottom of the second with him on the mound, most of them were off walks. He allowed only a single to Dave Salas late in the second inning before taking a set for Camacho. The relief pitcher did a better pitching

job, as he walked only two and struck out six batters. With Camacho's steady hands, the Jets made it no past first base in the last two innings.

While the Jets had problems rounding the bases, the IP&E Rockies were coasting their way around the dish, capitalizing on the former's defensive miscues. The Rockies got five of their seven runs in the first inning off the Jets' errors and kept their scoring run in the last three innings, nailing five runs apiece in the second and third and adding four in the fourth and last.

With the victory, IP&E Rockies improved their record to 3-2, while the Jets remained winless in four games.

In the second match, the Falcons also took only four innings to finish off the Ol'Aces, 18-0.

The Falcons remained undefeated in six games to keep the top view in the 15-squad field, while the Ol'Aces are at the bottom half of the team standings with their 1-4 card.

Zach Reyes and Keno Serrano pitched for the Falcons in the first three innings and shut down the Ol'Aces, allowing no hit, while Aven Evangelista closed out for the division leader and gave up a single, but no run in the fourth inning. The three Falcons pitchers combined for nine strikeouts.

The Falcons walked away with the lopsided victory despite a slow start on offense. The defending champions got only two runs in the first inning with Max Pangelinan scoring the team's first run off an Ol'Aces pitching error and Angel Iguel reaching home off a fielder's choice. Then in the next two innings, the Falcons were busy making one run after another, tallying seven runs in the second and nine in the third to move one inning away from securing an early win via 10-run mercy rule.

Meanwhile, the third and final game last Monday between the GSM Twins (0-4) and Hustlers (3-0) was rescheduled.

Kenji Yamagata leads the Senior League in batting

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

The Jets' Kenji Yamagata took the early lead in the batting race in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball.

As of Feb. 9, Yamagata has been the lone batter to post a batting average above .500 with his .600. In four games with the Jets, he went 6-for-10 at bat to lead 15 others in the batting chart. The Jets slugger also made it to the leaderboard in the RBIs category with his five, just one RBI behind the Red Sox's Jhace Palacios. Yamagata's teammate K.J. Deleon Guerrero and the Fielders' Franklin Lizama have four apiece to share the No. 3 spot.

There was also a tie for second place in the batting race with Palacios and another Jets player Nathan Camacho averaging .454. Both hit 5-for-11 at bat. Palacios' teammate Jobe Reyes is alone at the No. 3 spot with his .444 (4-for-9), followed by the Jets' Jesse Brel (.416), Deleon Guerrero (.416), the Enforcers' Freddy Songao (.400), the Red Sox's Craig Aguon (.333) and Jerald Cabrera (.333), the Enforcers' Verlance Sechamidal (.333)

and Darion Jones (.333), the Fielders' Mike Muna (.300), the Enforcers' Peyton Lizama (.300), and the Red Sox's Vincent Leon Guerrero (.300), Bradley Lieto (.272), and Henry Lizama (.272).

Besides barging into the Top 15 in the batting chart, Aguon and Cabrera also made it to the leaderboard in runs category, tallying five apiece and sharing the top spot with the Jets' Jesse Brel. Lieto, Devyn Flores, and J.J. Lifofoi have four each.

In triples, Brel, Franco Nakamura, and Verlance Sechamidal had one apiece, while six players have gained one double each early this season.

Meanwhile, Palacios took the No. 1 spot in the pitching race with his 0.50 ERA. In 14 innings pitched, he gave up only one run. He is ahead of the Muna, who pitched 12.1 innings and allowed three runs for a 1.70 ERA. Only two pitchers entered the leaderboard, as the statistics were based on nine or more innings pitched.

In the strikeouts category, Muna is in a three-way tie with the Enforcers' Darion Jones and the Jets' Nathan Camacho. All three have 10 strikeouts to lead the Red Sox's Palacios (9) and the Lions' Perry Celis (8).



Jets players huddle on the mound during a brief break in their Senior League game against the Red Sox. The Jets' Kenji Yamagata leads the division in batting race.



J.J. Atalig ruled the Marianas Golf Association's 2013 Ace of Aces Tournament held at the Marianas Country Club late last month.

Atalig secured the championship in the season-ending competition after shooting an even par 72 in the second and final round of the tournament and earning a net 66. The 6-handicapper carded an impressive 1-under par 35 on the front nine of the Marpi course and closed out with a 1-over par 37 on the back nine. Atalig made a big leap in the finale, as he only shot a net 76 in first round and finished sixth behind co-leaders John Poiroux and Harry Nakamura.

Poiroux settled for the runner-up honors, as he tallied a 1-over par 73 in the second round for a two-round net score 144, two strokes behind the 142 of Atalig. Nakamura dropped to third, as his 3-over par 75 in the final round

Atalig takes MGA Ace of Aces crown



J.J. Atalig, second left, poses with his trophy and fellow Marianas Golf Association players during the awards ceremony for the 2013 MGA Ace of Aces Tournament late last month at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

Meanwhile, the second round of

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the club championship also doubled as the January Ace of the Month

tournament and incidentally, Atalig's 66 topped the field. With the victory, Atalig is assured of a slot to the 2014 season-ending tournament.

The 2013 club champion won the January Ace over Ron Benavente, Rep. Ralph Yumul, Mike Sablan, and Carl Hocog, who were in a logjam for second place with their similar net scores of 69. Hocog prevailed in the scorecard tiebreak, while Yumul, Benavente, and Sablan

occupied the No. 3 to No. 5 spots.

In the closest to the pin contests, Jay Muna won on hole No. 1, John Sablan prevailed on No. 8, while Mike Sablan and Yumul took care of No. 12 and No. 16, respectively.

In related news, MGA elected its officers for 2014 with Jack Salas selected as president. Geri Dela Cruz was elected vice president, while other officers includes treasurer Erlina Naputi, fundraising chair Juan "Shine" Tenoerio, handicap chair Joey Dela Cruz, and tournament director Ron Benavente.

Next up for MGA is the February Ace tournament, which will be held this Sunday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Show time is at 12pm, while tee off is set for 1pm. For more information, contact Salas at 287-4380 or Ron Benavente at 287-9011, or send email to marian-asgolf670@gmail.com. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**



**Love has 42 points,
16 boards, Wolves
beat Pacers**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Dolphins fire
offensive line coach
and trainer**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Beling, Abragan rule mixed-up doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Luke Beling and Joshua Abragan triumphed in the battle of the Top 2 seeds in the mixed-up doubles event of the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament.

The top-ranked duo swept the second-seeded pair of Steven Goodwin and Peter Loken in the title match last Monday afternoon at the American Memorial Park tennis courts to cap their unbeaten run in the 38-team field. Beling, a tennis pro at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, and the junior player Abragan cruised to a 6-3 victory in the opening set behind the former's big service game before laboring a 7-6 (7-4) win in the second set.

The championship showdown between the Top 2 pairs in the mixed-up doubles was arranged after they prevailed in their respective semis brackets

last Monday morning. In the top half of the bracket, Beling and Abragan also needed only two sets to eliminate the junior players tandem of Seiya Eda and Robbie Schorr. The eventual champions had a 6-2 win in the opening set and wrapped up the Final Four pairing in style with a 6-0 demolition of Eda and Schorr.

In the bottom half of the draw, Loken and Steven Goodwin were pitted against the latter's father Tim and junior player Malika Miyawaki in the semifinals. Loken and Steven had a tougher time against their unranked opponents as seen in

See BELING on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Luke Beling serves, while teammate Joshua Abragan stays near the net during their mixed-up doubles title game against Peter Loken and Steven Goodwin in the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Tigers enter win column in SBL



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Tigers' Manny Tenorio reaches in for the ball during the top of the eighth inning of their game against the D-9ers in the SBL last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Tigers bagged their first win of the season after prevailing against the D-9ers, 17-11, in last Wednesday's game in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



The Tigers finally roared after being tamed by the Brewers and the North Starz, as the Tony Rogolifoi-managed squad

threatened a breakaway in the first three innings and then hung tough against the D-9ers rally.

The Tigers erected a 10-2 lead in the first three innings with shortstop Reno Celis and first baseman Ian Rogolifoi leading the team's offense. Celis hit back-to-back doubles in the second and third inning and had three RBIS, while Ian Rogolifoi blasted two straight

RBI singles. Designated hitter Paul Camacho and Phil Celis also made RBI singles, while
See TIGER on Page 30

Talavera, Mersai make it two in a row



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert Talavera, left, and Kathy Mersai pose with their prizes packages during the awards ceremony for the SBA Budweiser February roll-offs last weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Robert Talavera pulled off another close win in Saipan Bowling Association's Budweiser King of the Lanes Tournament held over the weekend Saipan Bowling Center, prevailing by only two pinfalls against Raymond Angeles, 826-824. The veteran bowler also had a two-pinfall victory over Raymond Zapanta in the January roll-offs. After a dismal 169-pinfall

performance in this month's tournament, Talavera knocked down 200-plus pins in the last three games (203, 208, and 246) to average 206.50 in the final day of the weekend competition. He also joined Day 1 of the roll-offs, but his 751 pinfalls (188, 211, 203, and 149) was only good for fourth place at the end of the opening day. Bowlers are allowed to compete in both days of the monthly roll-offs, but only the higher score is counted.
See TALAVERA on Page 30

